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Trump surveys devastation, pays respects to tornado victims

By JILL COLVIN and JAY REEVES Associated Press
BEAUREGARD, Ala. (AP) — Standing near the slab that's all that is left of one family's garage, President Donald Trump on Friday surveyed the devastation wrought by a powerful tornado that ripped through a rural Alabama town, uprooting trees, tearing homes from their foundations and killing nearly two dozen people. "We saw things that you wouldn't believe," said Trump, overlooking a debris field strewn with branches and other wreckage in Beauregard, which bore the brunt of Sunday's storm.



President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump visit crosses at Providence Baptist Church in Smiths Station, Ala., Friday, March 8, 2019, as they travel to tour areas where tornados killed 23 people in Lee County, Ala.

Continued on Page 3

Associated Press



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GOP state lawmakers approve 'heartbeat' abortion bans

By **BEN NADLER, KIMBERLEE KRUESI and SANYA MAN-SOOR**

Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Georgia and Tennessee joined a string of states moving to enact tough abortion restrictions when Republican House lawmakers passed bans on most abortions after a fetal heartbeat can be detected.

During a tense debate in Atlanta on Thursday, several Democratic lawmakers opposed to the bill turned their backs to its author, Republican Rep. Ed Setzler. Earlier in the day, some Democratic lawmakers brought in wire coat hangers in reference to unsafe home abortions.

Setzler said his bill "seeks to recognize that the child in the womb, that is living distinct from their mother, has a right to life that is worthy of legal protection."

The Tennessee House passed similar legislation earlier Thursday after its Republican supermajority forced an end to debate without letting some Democrats speak. Several other



Protesters from Planned Parenthood and other groups gather in front of the Tennessee House chamber to oppose a so-called fetal heartbeat bill before the vote, Thursday, March 7, 2019 in Nashville, Tenn.

states including Mississippi, Florida, Kentucky, Ohio and South Carolina are also considering this type of legislation.

If the measures in Georgia and Tennessee win Senate

approval and are signed into law, they would trigger immediate legal challenges.

Several women held a silent protest on the steps of Georgia's Capitol on Friday dressed as characters from "The Handmaid's Tale," which depicts a dystopian future where women are controlled by the government and forcibly used for breeding purposes.

Abortion opponents across the country are hopeful the U.S. Supreme Court — with new Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh — will either reverse Roe v. Wade, or uphold specific state laws that could undermine the court's 1973 ruling establishing the right

of women to abort a fetus that can't survive outside the womb.

Democratic Rep. Renitta Shannon, speaking against the bill and about her own past abortion, went over time and her microphone was cut off. She refused to yield the floor until colleagues surrounded her and implored her to walk away.

Before her microphone was cut, Shannon spoke about the illegal and unsafe abortion options women faced before Roe v. Wade.

"Let's be clear, no matter what kind of law you pass to outlaw abortions, women will continue to seek and have abortions," Shannon said.

Women in Georgia can currently seek an abortion during the first 20 weeks of a pregnancy. A fetal heartbeat is generally detectable at around six weeks, before many women know they are pregnant.

The bill would make exceptions in the case of rape and incest, but only when the woman files a police report first. It also allows for abortions when the fetus is determined to be not compatible with life due to serious medical issues.

Setzler previously said he had "misgivings" about those exceptions, saying that "those children are just as innocent as others."

Republican Rep. Darlene Taylor asked a rhetorical question: "Who speaks for baby fetus?"

"Today I do," Taylor answered, as she read a prepared speech as if she was a baby fetus that did not want to be aborted.

"We know that this bill is unconstitutional. We know that there are going to be huge costs to litigate this," Wilensky said.

The fast-tracked bill came to the floor in the final minutes before a legislative deadline by which bills must generally pass out of one house or the other to remain in play for the session.

Republican Gov. Brian Kemp, who pledged as a candidate to sign the toughest abortion laws in the country, endorsed the proposal in a news conference after its passage in the House, but said there is more work to be done in the Senate. □

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Don't fall back on springing time forward this weekend

WASHINGTON (AP) — There's no time like the present to watch the shifting sands of the hourglass foretell the inevitable forward march of time.

It's time again to abide by the old adage to spring forward (though it's not yet spring) and mark the shift from standard to daylight saving time. The change occurs at 2 a.m. local time Sunday across most of the United States, so set your clocks an

hour ahead before going to bed Saturday night.

Daylight will begin to last longer into the evening, but the sun will take an hour longer to emerge in the morning.

No time change is observed in Hawaii, most of Arizona, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam and the Northern Marianas.

Standard time returns Nov. 3. □

Trump surveys devastation, pays respects to tornado victims

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Mangled metal siding, wood planks, piping and electric wires lay strewn on the ground, along with remnants of everyday life: clothing, a sofa, a bottle of Lysol cleaner and a welcome mat encrusted with dirt.

Trump and the first lady spent the afternoon meeting with survivors, victims' families and volunteers trying to rebuild after the massive tornado carved a path of destruction nearly a mile wide, killing 23 people, including four children and a couple in their 80s, with ten victims belonging to a single extended family.

The trip was a familiar one for Trump, who, now in the third year of his presidency, has traveled to the sites of numerous disasters and tragedies, including hurricanes, shootings and wildfires.

The day began with an aerial survey of the area by helicopter, which flew over swaths of land where trees had been flattened. Trump and his wife, Melania, also visited a church serving as a makeshift disaster relief center for survivors. He later observed a moment of silence before white wooden crosses commemorating each of the victims.

Head bowed, Trump and his wife held hands as they paused in front of each of the markers. Trump shook his head as he stood in front of one, which had been decorated with a tiny pair of children's sneakers.

Trump has, at times, struggled with his role as consoler-in-chief during trips to survey damage and meet with tragedy victims. He memorably tossed paper towels into a crowd as he surveyed damage following hurricanes in Puerto Rico — a move that some saw as inappropriate given the circumstances — and marveled at a yacht that floodwaters had deposited on a family's property during a trip to the Carolinas.

"At least you got a nice boat out of the deal," Trump told the family. He was caught on camera



President Donald Trump hugs a resident as he and first lady Melania Trump talk with people Beauregard, Ala., Friday, March 8, 2019, as they travel to tour areas where tornados killed 23 people in Lee County, Ala.

telling a person to whom he had just handed food to "have a good time."

This time, however, Trump appeared to avoid any such distractions aside from some hubbub caused by his decision to sign Bibles, which Providence Baptist Church had been distributing, along with clothing and other supplies, including diapers, toiletries and personal care products.

Before signing autographs or posing for photos with the volunteers there, Trump thanked law enforcement officials and other first responders, as well as Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen, who oversees the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which is assisting state and local response efforts.

"I wanted to come the day it happened," he said, adding that Gov. Kay Ivey had asked him to wait.

Before leaving the church, Trump posed for a photograph with a fifth-grade volunteer and signed the child's Bible, said Ada Ingram, a local volunteer. Ingram said the president also signed her sister's Bible. The pastor, Rusty Sowell, said the president's visit was uplifting and will help bring attention to a community that will need a long time to recover.

"This is a marathon, not a sprint," Sowell said.

Earlier, Trump spent time with three families who lost loved ones, hearing their stories and dispens-

Associated Press

ing hugs. He also met privately with survivors and family members, including a woman mourning the loss of 10 relatives.

"What they've been through is incredible," Trump said after emerging from the meeting.

Before Trump arrived in Beauregard, Renee Frazier stood amid bricks and lumber that used to be her mother's home and waved as the helicopter carrying

Trump passed overhead. Minutes before, Frazier, whose mother survived the tornado, had been arguing with relatives who opposed Trump's visit, calling it more about politics than compassion.

Frazier disagreed.

"I want the president here to see what happened to my mom's house," she said.

"I want him right here on this land because my mom is about love and unity."

Down the road, where several people died, Trump supporter Bobby Spann said he hoped the president had learned "how to be a Southerner and how to respect people" during his brief visit. Spann said he also hoped Trump realized how much help is needed.

"Houses need to be replaced. You can't help the dead folks, but you can try to help the ones that's still living," said Spann, chewing on a yellowroot twig. The tornado had partially peeled away the roof of Spann's mobile home.

Trump had said before the visit that he'd instructed FEMA to give Alabama

"the A Plus treatment" as it recovers — rhetoric that stood in contrast to Trump's response to disasters on less politically friendly territory. Alabama supported Trump by a wide margin in the 2016 presidential election, and he carried about 60 percent of the vote in Lee County, where Beauregard is located. Blue Trump flags flying outside homes are a frequent sight in the town, and many were seen waving Friday. In the months after wildfires scorched California, a Democrat-led state that voted for Hillary Clinton in 2016, Trump threatened to cut off federal aid unless the state embraced forest management policies he championed.

He also engaged in a sustained back-and-forth with lawmakers from hurricane-whipped Puerto Rico, whose pro-statehood governor identifies as a Democrat. Trump repeatedly blamed the U.S. territory for its problems and noted how much money recovery efforts had cost the federal government. □

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House OKs election, ethics overhaul; Senate to slam door

By **MATTHEW DALY**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Newly empowered House Democrats approved a centerpiece of their agenda Friday, a sweeping plan to reduce the role of big money in politics, ensure fair elections and strengthen ethics standards. But the leader of Republican-run Senate has pledged it will not come up for a vote and the White House issued a veto threat. The measure would make it easier for people to register and vote, tighten election security and require presidential candidates to disclose their tax returns. Election Day would become a holiday for federal workers and a public financing system for congressional campaigns would be established. The bill would bar voter roll purges such as those seen in Georgia, Ohio and elsewhere, and restore voting rights for ex-prisoners. The legislation was approved 234-193 on a straight party-line vote, with all Democrats voting “yes” and all Republicans voting “no.” Republicans called the bill a Democratic power grab



House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., speaks with reporters during a news conference at the Capitol in Washington, Friday, March 8, 2019.

that amounts to a federal takeover of elections and could cost billions of dollars. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said the proposal was dead on arrival in that chamber. The White House said in a statement that the Democrats’ plan would “micro-manage” elections that now are run largely by states and would establish “costly and unnecessary

programs to finance political campaigns” and force taxpayers to fund federal candidates they may not support. But House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said the bill “restores the people’s faith that government works for the public interest — the people’s interest — not the special interests.” Trying to turn Republicans’ words against them, Pelosi

said, “Yes it is a power grab — a power grab on behalf of the people.” House GOP leader Kevin McCarthy of California said the legislation would undermine the integrity of elections by allowing convicted felons to vote, and would apply a one-size-fits-all standard to elections now run by states and local governments. The bill stands in contrast

to legislation Republicans promoted when they controlled the chamber in the last Congress, McCarthy said, citing a massive tax cut they pushed through that was intended to jump-start the economy. “Our bill returned taxpayer money to the people. Theirs takes tax money and gives it to campaigns.” Democrats have criticized the GOP tax cut as a boon to the rich and to corporations. The nonpartisan Tax Policy Center said most middle-income taxpayers should see a reduction this year although the tax law benefits higher earners more. Democrats on Friday said McCarthy was mischaracterizing the election-overhaul bill. Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif., said it “grabs power away from the elites and the power brokers and gives it to the people.” She and other Democrats disputed the claim that taxpayers will pay for campaigns, noting that money for political campaigns would come from a surcharge on federal settlements made with banks and corporations that run afoul of the law. □

Maine mayor resigns after his racist text message is leaked

LEWISTON, Maine (AP) — The mayor of Maine’s second-largest city resigned Friday in the wake of a controversy over his leaked text messages, one of which included a racist remark, and authorities confirmed he’s being investigated by the state attorney general’s office and the city police. Republican Shane Bouchard stepped down as Lewiston’s mayor effective immediately. Text messages made public by a woman who said she had an affair with Bouchard when he was a mayoral candidate revealed a racist remark he sent her while the two were working to undermine a political opponent. The woman, Heather Berube Everly, has said that she was the source of emails the Maine GOP used to



Shane Bouchard announces his resignation as mayor of Lewiston, Maine during a press conference at Lewiston City Hall Friday, March 8, 2019, in Lewiston, Maine.

attack Democratic opponent Ben Chin. A website created by Maine Republican Party leader Jason Savage published emails from Chin’s campaign, in-

cluding one in which Chin said he’s run into “a bunch of racists.” Bouchard went on to defeat Chin in the December 2017 runoff. The Sun Journal reported

Everly has now made public more than 150 text exchanges with Bouchard. In one, Bouchard describes elderly black people as “antique farm equipment.” Bouchard apologized after the texts became public. He said he says “stupid things and stupid jokes occasionally.” He then held a brief press conference on Friday in which he said he’s “not a perfect person” and blamed the news media in part for his troubles. “It has become clear to me that the media does not acknowledge personal space and reports on nothing more than rumor in many cases. In this political climate where the media does not discriminate between fact and rumors, it is hard to be a public figure,” he said. The investigation

division of the Office of the Attorney General is working with the Lewiston Police Department on an investigation of the allegations against the now-former mayor, said Marc Malon, a spokesman for the office. He declined to comment further. City Council President Kristen Cloutier will take over as mayor until the election in November. She also said she doesn’t plan to run for the office. Cloutier said she’d heard some of the rumors concerning Bouchard’s campaign. “The campaign was fraught with those rumors. A lot of people had heard some of them,” she said. Bouchard has described the allegations of his affair with Everly as a rumor that was dealt with months ago. □

Chelsea Manning jailed for refusing to testify on WikiLeaks

By **MATTHEW BARAKAT**
Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — Former Army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning, who served years in prison for leaking one of the largest troves of classified documents in U.S. history, was sent to jail Friday for refusing to testify before a grand jury investigating WikiLeaks.

U.S. District Judge Claude Hilton ordered Manning to jail for civil contempt of court after a brief hearing in federal court in Alexandria in which Manning confirmed she has no intention of testifying. She told the judge she “will accept whatever you bring upon me.”

Manning has said she objects to the secrecy of the grand jury process and already revealed everything she knows at her court-martial. She said prosecutors have granted her immunity for her testimony, which eliminates her ability to invoke her Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination.

“I will not participate in a secret process that I morally object to, particularly one that has been used to entrap and persecute activists for protected political speech,” she said in a statement released after she was taken into custody. The judge said she will remain jailed until she testifies or until the grand jury concludes its work.

Manning’s lawyers had asked that she be sent to home confinement instead of the jail because of complications she faces in receiving gender-affirming medical care.

The judge said U.S. marshals can handle her medical care. Prosecutor Tracy McCormick said the jail and the marshals have assured the government that her medical needs can be met.

Amy Bertsch, spokeswoman for the Alexandria jail, confirmed Friday that Manning had been booked.

“Specific details about Ms. Manning’s confinement will not be made public due to security and privacy con-



This booking photo provided by the Alexandria Sheriff's Office, in Virginia, shows Chelsea Manning.

cerns,” Alexandria Sheriff Dana Lawhorne said in a statement. “We will work closely with the U.S. Marshals to ensure her proper care while she remains at our facility.”

Manning acknowledged going into Friday’s hearing that she might well be incarcerated at its conclusion. Outside the courthouse, about 10 protesters rallied in her support.

“Obviously, prison is a terrible place,” Manning said. “I don’t see the purpose to incarcerate people.”

Manning served seven years of a 35-year military sentence for leaking a trove of military and diplomatic documents to the anti-secrecy website before then-President Barack Obama commuted her sentence.

The WikiLeaks investigation has been ongoing for a long time. Last year, prosecutors in Alexandria in-

advertently disclosed that WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is facing unspecified, sealed criminal charges in the district.

WikiLeaks also has emerged as an important part of Special Counsel Robert

Mueller’s investigation into possible Russian meddling into the 2016 presidential election, as investigators focus on whether President Donald Trump’s campaign knew Russian hackers were going to provide

emails to WikiLeaks stolen from Democratic organizations, including presidential candidate Hillary Clinton’s campaign.

But there is no indication that the Alexandria grand jury’s investigation of WikiLeaks is related to the Mueller investigation.

McCormick said Manning can end the incarceration on the civil charge simply by following the law and testifying.

“We hope she changes her mind now,” McCormick said.

Manning’s lawyer, Moira Meltzer-Cohen, said she believes jailing Manning is an act of cruelty given her medical issues, and said there are many documented issues of jails and prisons providing inadequate medical care for transgender inmates. She said Manning’s one-bedroom apartment would be a sufficient manner of confinement.

Meltzer-Cohen said after the hearing that the detention order can be appealed, but did not comment on whether such an appeal would be filed. □

Associated Press



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CDC: Unvaccinated Oregon boy almost dies of tetanus

By **GILLIAN FLACCUS**
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — An unvaccinated 6-year-old Oregon boy was hospitalized for two months for tetanus and almost died of the bacterial illness after getting a deep laceration on his forehead while playing on a farm, according to a case study published Friday by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The 2017 case is the first case of pediatric tetanus in Oregon in more than 30 years and alarmed infectious disease experts who said tetanus is almost unheard of in the U.S. since widespread immunization began in the 1940s.

The child received an emergency dose of the tetanus vaccine in the hospital but his parents declined to give him a second dose — or any other childhood shots — after he recovered, the paper said.

“When I read that, my jaw dropped. I could not believe it. That’s a tragedy and a misunderstanding and I’m just flabbergasted,” said Dr. William Schaffner, an expert in infectious diseases and chair at the Department of Preventive Medicine at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in Nashville, Tennessee.



In this May 27, 2013 file photo a needle with tetanus vaccine is prepared by a nurse practitioner on a tornado ravaged street in Moore, Okla.

Associated Press

“This is an awful disease, but ... we have had a mechanism to completely prevent it and the reason that we have virtually no cases anymore in the United States is because we vaccinate, literally, everyone.”

The paper did not provide any details about the child, his family or where they live in Oregon and attempts to get that information from the paper’s authors were

unsuccessful.

News about the tetanus case comes as lawmakers in Oregon and Washington are considering bills that would end non-medical exemptions for routine childhood vaccines as the Pacific Northwest weathers its third month of a measles outbreak. Seventy people in southwest Washington, most of them unvaccinated children, have been

diagnosed with the highly contagious viral illness since Jan. 1, as well as a handful of people in Portland, Oregon.

Unlike measles, which is a virus, someone who has survived a case of tetanus is not immune and can get the illness again if they remain unvaccinated. Tetanus also isn’t transmitted person-to-person by sneezing or coughing like the measles, but instead comes from bacterial spores that are found in the environment.

Tetanus spores exist everywhere, particularly in the soil. When an unvaccinated person gets a deep, penetrating wound, those spores can invade the cut and begin producing the bacteria that causes the illness.

The tetanus bacterium secretes a toxin that gets into the bloodstream and latches onto the nervous system. Anywhere from three to 21 days after infection, symptoms appear: muscle spasms, lockjaw, difficulty swallowing and breathing and seizures. The disease can cause death or severe disability in those who survive, Schaffner said.

About 30 people contract tetanus each year nationwide, according to the CDC, and 16 people died of it between 2009 and

2015. It’s rare among children; those over 65 are the most vulnerable.

In the case in Oregon, the boy cut himself on the forehead while playing and his family stitched up the wound themselves. Six days later, he began clenching his jaw, arching his neck and back and had uncontrollable muscle spasms.

When he began to have trouble breathing, his parents called paramedics and he was transported by air to Oregon Health & Science University in Portland.

When he arrived, he asked for water but could not open his mouth.

The child was sedated, put on a ventilator and cared for in a darkened room while wearing ear plugs because any stimulation made his pain and muscle spasms worse. His fever spiked to almost 105 degrees (40.5 Celsius) and he developed high blood pressure and a racing heartbeat.

Forty-four days after he was hospitalized, the boy was able to sip clear liquids. Six days later, he was able to walk a short distance with help. After another three weeks of inpatient rehabilitation and a month at home, he could ride a bike and run — a remarkable recovery, experts said. □



In this June 19, 2017, file photo, former Turing Pharmaceuticals CEO Martin Shkreli, center, arrives at Brooklyn federal court in New York with members of his legal team.

Associated Press

By **JIM MUSTIAN**
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Federal authorities said Friday they are investigating claims that Martin Shkreli has been running his pharmaceutical company from behind bars

using a contraband smartphone.

The U.S. Bureau of Prisons told The Associated Press it has opened an inquiry into whether the man nicknamed the “Pharma Bro” violated prison rules for-

Feds probe alleged prison cellphone use by ‘Pharma Bro’

bidding inmates from conducting business and possessing cellphones.

Shkreli, 35, is serving a seven-year sentence for securities fraud at the Federal Correctional Institution at Fort Dix, New Jersey, a low-security prison complex about 40 miles (65 kilometers) from Philadelphia. He was found guilty of lying to investors in two failed hedge funds and cheating them out of millions.

The Wall Street Journal reported this week that Shkreli has used a cellphone to call the shots at his drug company, Phoenixus AG,

posting regularly to social media and even firing the company’s chief executive a few weeks ago.

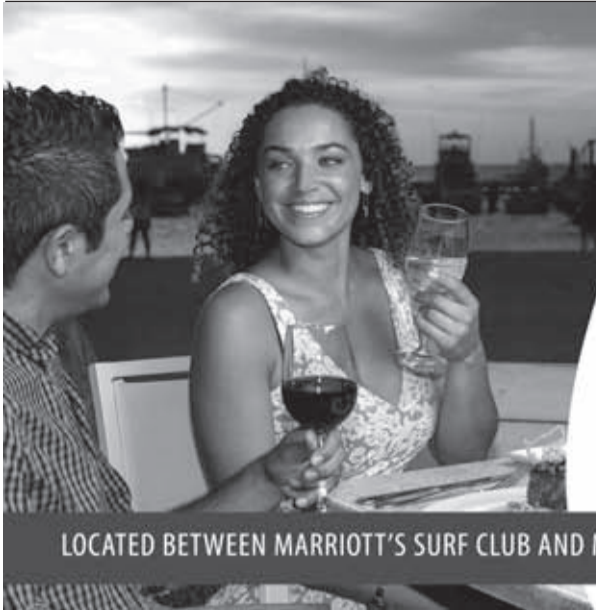
Shkreli’s defense attorney, Benjamin Brafman, declined to comment.

The Bureau of Prisons said federal prisoners caught in possession of cellphones face up to an additional year behind bars if convicted. Shkreli also could face disciplinary sanctions within the prison if he is found to have conducted business.

“Like all correctional agencies, the BOP continues to tackle the problem of contraband being introduced

into our facilities, including contraband cell phones,” the agency said in a statement to The AP. “The BOP continually evaluates and deploys as appropriate, contraband-detecting technologies, including walk-through metal detectors and whole-body imaging devices.”

Shkreli had been charged with eight counts of securities fraud, conspiracy to commit securities fraud and wire fraud, for his role managing MSMB Capital Management and MSMB Healthcare between 2009 and 2014. □



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This Feb. 11, 2017, file aerial photo released by the California Department of Water Resources shows the damaged spillway with eroded hillside in Oroville, Calif.

Associated Press

U.S. disaster agency rejects \$306M for California dam repair

By **KATHLEEN RONAYNE**
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)

— The federal government has rejected \$306 million in reimbursements for California's repair of damaged spillways on the nation's tallest dam, a state agency said Friday.

California has so far requested about \$639 million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the Oroville Dam repairs, said Lisa Lien-Mager of the state's Natural Resources Agency. FEMA has agreed to cover \$333 million.

That's less than about a third of the \$1.1 billion the state's Department of Water Resources said it took to repair the dam. Spillways on the Oroville Dam crumbled and fell away during heavy rains in February 2017, forcing nearly 200,000 people to evacuate amid fears the dam would collapse. Disas-

ter was ultimately averted, but the dam needed significant repair.

The agency rejected \$306 million in repairs for the dam's upper gated spillway because it was damaged prior to the heavy rain, FEMA spokeswoman Brandi Richard said.

"Two separate independent engineering reviews indicate that a variety of problems existed at the dam prior to the February 2017 floods. FEMA's Public Assistance can only fund work directly linked to the declared disaster," Richard said in a statement.

California plans to appeal, though it has not yet received a formal memo from FEMA outlining its decision, Lien-Mager said. The state can seek reimbursement for up to 75 percent of the cost and may be submitting more reimbursement requests soon. □

Woman charged in 1981 death of newborn found in ditch



This March 8, 2019, jail photo released by Minnehaha County, South Dakota, shows 57-year-old Theresa Rose Bentaas.

Associated Press

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) —

A South Dakota woman was charged Friday in the death of a newborn who was abandoned in a ditch 38 years ago, and police said they used DNA and genealogy sites to determine she was the baby's mother.

Theresa Rose Bentaas was arrested and charged with murder and manslaughter in the 1981 death of the infant, known as Baby Andrew.

Bentaas told authorities last month that she had hid-

den her pregnancy from her friends and family and gave birth while alone in her apartment, according to a court affidavit. Bentaas allegedly said she then drove the baby to the area he was later discovered, a cornfield ditch in Sioux Falls. Bentaas, now 57, said she was "young and stupid" and felt sad and scared as she drove away, according to the document. The baby died of exposure.

Bentaas, who was 19 when the baby died, later married the infant's father and

has two living adult children with him, the Argus Leader reported.

Court records don't list an attorney for Bentaas who could comment on the allegations. Retired Detective Mike Webb said authorities used DNA from the baby exhumed 10 years ago and DNA obtained from Bentaas through a search warrant. Webb said the father won't be charged because he wasn't involved.

"I couldn't be more pleased with the results today and the arrest and the closure that we find, as well as the hard work and dedication for the pursuit of justice for Andrew," Chief Matt Burns said.

Public genealogy databases have been used in other recent cases, including the capture last April of the suspected Golden State Killer in northern California and the arrest of a businessman accused of fatally stabbing a Minneapolis woman in 1993. In South Dakota, authorities submitted a DNA sample from Baby Andrew to Parabon NanoLabs, which found two possible matches using the public genealogical database GEDmatch. Police constructed a family tree and performed a "trash pull" to collect beer and water containers and cigarette butts at Bentaas' home. Results from a cheek swab sample show there's "extremely strong evidence" to support a biological relationship between Bentaas and the child, according to the affidavit. □

International Women's Day: Strikes, protests and holidays

By **BARRY HATTON**

ARITZ PARRA

Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — Marches and protests are held Friday across the globe to mark International Women's Day under the slogan #BalanceforBetter, with calls for a more gender-balanced world.

The day, sponsored by the United Nations since 1975, celebrates women's achievements and aims to further their rights.

Thousands of women walked off the job in Spain, joining millions more around the world demanding equality amid a persistent salary gap, violence and widespread inequality.

EUROPE

Police in the Ukrainian capital Kiev detained three people as far-right demonstrators tried to provoke activists protesting domestic and sexual violence.

About 300 people gathered on Mykhailivska Square in central Kiev on Friday for the women's rights demonstration. Several dozen far-right demonstrators stood nearby, holding placards reading "God! Homeland! Patriarchy!" and "Feminism is destroying Ukrainian families."

In Spain, where women's rights have become one of the hot topics in the run-up to a general election next month, many female employees didn't show up to work Friday. Others also halted domestic work or left to men the care of children and ill or elderly people.

In neighboring Portugal, the Cabinet observed a minute of silence Thursday as part of a day of national mourning it decreed for victims of domestic violence. Portuguese police say 12 women have died this year in domestic violence incidents — the highest number over the same period in 10 years.

Pope Francis hailed the "irreplaceable contribution of women" to fostering peace.

"Women make the world beautiful, they protect it and keep it alive," the Argentine Jesuit said.

Francis has vowed to give more decision-making roles to women in the Catholic Church, where the priesthood — and therefore the highest ranks of authority —

for the trailblazing French politician and Holocaust survivor Veil, who spearheaded the fight to legalize abortion.

Meanwhile in Russia, Inter-

line and burned to death — every year because the groom or his family feel the dowry she brought to the wedding was inadequate. Political parties in India

young said that South Korea struggles to accept that women are "also humans" and that women have to fight until they can "walk around safely."

In the North, where Women's Day is one of the few national holidays that is not explicitly political in nature, people dressed up for family photo shoots or bought roses for their mothers or wives at the many small, bright orange street stalls in central Pyongyang that sell flowers. The stalls normally do most of their business selling flowers to be placed at the feet of statues to the country's leaders.

In the Philippines, hundreds of women in purple shirts used a noisy march and protest in Manila to call for the ouster of President Rodrigo Duterte, whom they rebuked for the often sexist jokes he cracks and authoritarian moves they say are threatening one of Asia's liveliest democracies.

They toppled an ugly head effigy of Duterte from atop paper blocks with slogans depicting him as an American lapdog.

NORTH AMERICA

On the eve of International Women's Day, U.S. first lady Melania Trump saluted women from 10 countries for their courage.

The recipients of the International Women of Courage Award included human rights activists, police officers and an investigative journalist. They came from Bangladesh, Djibouti, Egypt, Ireland, Jordan, Montenegro, Myanmar, Peru, Sri Lanka and Tanzania.

"Courage is what divides those who only talk about change from those who actually act to change," Mrs. Trump said at a ceremony Thursday that was also attended by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

Pompeo separately recognized women in Iran for protesting the requirement that they wear a head covering known as a hijab in public and a Ukrainian activist who died in 2018 after she was attacked with sulfuric acid. □



Women march as they shout slogans during the International Women's Day in Barcelona, Spain, Friday, March 8, 2019.

Associated Press

is reserved for men. Some feminists bristle at Francis' frequent use of the term "feminine genius" and his focus on women as mothers. In Germany, topless feminist protesters went to one of the country's most famous red-light districts in Hamburg and pulled down a metal barrier wall intended to keep out women — other than prostitutes.

A half-dozen women belonging to the Femen activist group had the slogan "No brothels for women" written on their bare back in black lettering.

Legally, all women are allowed to enter the street, but in reality most women obey the signs saying, "Entry only for men 18+."

In France, the first Simone Veil prize went Friday to a Cameroonian activist who has worked against forced marriages and other violence against girls and women. Aissa Doumara Ngatansou was married against her will at age 15 but insisted upon continuing her studies as a young wife. She has since turned her attention to victims of Boko Haram extremists.

The French award is named

national Women's Day is a public holiday but it mostly lauds gender roles that are now outdated. As is his custom every year, President Vladimir Putin gave a speech thanking women for their patience, good grace and support.

"You manage to do everything: both at work and at home and at the same time you remain beautiful, charismatic, charming, the center of gravity for the whole family, uniting it with your love," Putin said.

In Turkey, four female members of Turkey's gendarmerie units found an unusual way of marking the day: rappelling down from Istanbul's 15 July Martyrs' Bridge connecting the city's European and Asian sides and into the waters of the iconic Bosphorus.

ASIA

In India, hundreds of women marched on the streets of New Delhi demanding an end to domestic violence, sexual attacks and discrimination in jobs.

Boys are prized more than girls in India. Thousands of Indian women are killed — often doused in gaso-

have for years been promising 33 percent of seats for women in the country's Parliament, but they have yet to enact legislation to that effect.

In Indonesia's capital Jakarta, several hundred men and women carried colorful placards calling for an end to discriminatory practices such as the termination of employment for pregnancy and exploitative work contracts.

"Our action today is to urge (the government) for our right to a society that's democratic, prosperous, equal and free from violence," said Dian Trisnanti, a labor activist. Girls and women in Indonesia, the world's fourth most populous country, have equal access to education but face higher unemployment, lower wages and poorer working conditions than men.

Both Koreas marked the day. In the South, women wearing black cloaks and pointed hats marched against what they describe as a "witch hunt" of feminists in a deeply conservative society.

College student Noh Seo-

UK leader warns Brexit may never happen unless deal approved

By JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Prime Minister Theresa May tried to pressure U.K. lawmakers Friday to support her Brexit deal, warning that Britain may never leave the European Union if they vote down the agreement next week.

Battling to stave off a second defeat for the unpopular divorce deal, May also implored the EU to help her make "one more push" to get the agreement through a skeptical Parliament.

British lawmakers are due to vote for a second time Tuesday on the deal, which they overwhelmingly rejected in January. If Parliament throws out the deal again, lawmakers will vote on whether to leave the EU without an agreement — an idea likely to be rejected — or to ask the EU to delay Brexit beyond the scheduled March 29 departure date.

"Back it and the U.K. will leave the European Union," May said. "Reject it and no one knows what will happen."

In a speech to factory workers in the staunchly pro-Brexit northern England port town of Grimsby, May said a delay could lead to "more months and years



Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May gives a speech at the in Grimsby, north east England, Friday March 8, 2019.

arguing" over Britain's departure from the EU.

"If we go down that road, we may never leave the EU at all," May told workers at a Danish-owned wind-power factory.

British lawmakers' concerns about the divorce deal center on a provision designed to keep an open border between the U.K.'s Northern Ireland and EU member Ireland. The mechanism, known as the backstop, is a safeguard that would keep the U.K.

in a customs union with the other 27 EU countries in order to remove the need for checks until a permanent new trading relationship is in place.

Brexit-supporting lawmakers in the U.K. fear the backstop could be used to bind Britain to EU regulations indefinitely, and May wants to revise the deal to reassure opponents that it would only apply temporarily.

The EU is unwilling to reopen the 585-page agreement,

and last-minute negotiations have foundered, with the bloc's leaders saying Britain hasn't provided concrete proposals.

However, it made an offer Friday that it hopes can unblock the stalled Brexit negotiations. EU chief negotiator Michel Barnier said the EU was willing to offer Britain "a legally binding interpretation" of the withdrawal agreement through an additional statement, rather than a reopening of the deal.

Associated Press

In a series of tweets, Barnier said the bloc would assure Britain that it "will not be forced into customs union against its will."

"The EU will continue working intensively over the coming days to ensure that the U.K. leaves the EU with an agreement," he tweeted.

It was unclear to what extent the offer would help May in her attempt to push the withdrawal agreement past her parliament next Tuesday.

In her speech, May urged EU leaders to help her out, saying "it is in the European interest for the U.K. to leave with a deal."

"It needs just one more push, to address the final specific concerns of our Parliament," she said.

Opposition Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn said May's speech sounded like "a sign of desperation."

May acknowledged that, even if her deal passes next week, time will be tight to pass the necessary legislation needed to make Brexit a reality on March 29.

"If we were simply asking for a bit more time to pass the legislation we need to implement Brexit once we have agreed the deal, a delay would be straightforward," she said. □

Hungarian leader may turn to Polish party in EU Parliament

Associated Press

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — Hungary's prime minister said Friday he would seek to form an alliance with Poland's populist ruling party if his governing Fidesz party is ousted from the main center-right group in the European Parliament.

The European People's Party is expected to make a decision on Fidesz's status on March 20. About a dozen smaller parties within the bloc called for the Hungarian party's ouster because of Prime Minister Viktor Orban's tough anti-immigration stance and perceived contradictions with the group's Christian Democratic values.

"It's possible this debate will



In this Sunday, Feb. 10, 2019 file photo, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban delivers his annual "State of Hungary" speech in Budapest, Hungary.

end in a way that our place is not in the People's Party, but outside it," Orban said on state radio.

While Orban has often been at loggerheads with the European Union and

the EPP since his return to power in 2010, his government's current ad campaign against EU migration policies provoked intense criticism. The posters and billboards depict Europe-

Associated Press

an Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, who is part of the EPP, as advocating for mass migration into Europe. "I'd rather prefer to achieve ... the transformation of the People's Party so there is room inside it for anti-immigration forces like us," Orban said. "Whatever happens in the future, no compromise is imaginable regarding the protection of Christian culture and immigration." Poland's governing populist Law and Justice Party is not in the EPP, and Orban has a close relationship with Law and Justice leader Jaroslaw Kaczynski.

The EU has put Hungary and Poland under the microscope because of con-

cerns about the rule of law and democratic values. Both countries have vowed to veto any possible EU sanctions against the other. EPP group leader Manfred Weber, also the EPP candidate to succeed Juncker after May's European Parliament election, has set conditions for Fidesz to remain in the bloc.

They include ending the anti-Juncker campaign — which the government said it will do by March 15 — apologizing for the ads, and ensuring that Central European University, founded by George Soros, who appears with Juncker on the billboards, can keep all of its activities in Budapest. □

Al-Aqsa prayers pass peacefully after Israel-Jordan talks

ISABEL DEBRE

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Prayers passed peacefully at Jerusalem's most sensitive holy site Friday, as Jordan confirmed it was negotiating with Israel to ease mounting tensions after Israel ordered the closure of a building at the sacred compound. Israeli police were out in force after Palestinian leaders called for mass protests during weekly prayers at Al-Aqsa Mosque following a month of simmering hostility over the Israeli closure of a building known as the "Gate of Mercy."

Thousands of worshippers attended noon prayers but dispersed afterward without incident. A Jordanian official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media, confirmed that Jordan — the custodian of the sacred compound — held "intensive talks" with Israeli authorities this week to defuse tensions.

The Waqf, a Jordanian appointed body that oversees Muslim holy sites in



Palestinians pray at al-Aqsa mosque compound Friday, March 8, 2019.

Jerusalem, has staged periodic prayer-protests since late February to call for the reopening of the shuttered building. Israel closed the structure in 2003, claiming it was used by a heritage organization with ties to the Hamas militant group.

The Waqf contends that because the heritage group is now defunct, the

council should regain full access to the building like any other in the holy esplanade. For the past 16 years, according to Waqf secretary Bassem Abu Labda, the Waqf has unsuccessfully petitioned Israeli authorities to reopen the building. Last month, when a delegation from Jordan toured the dilapidated hall to in-

spect water leaks and discuss renovation plans, the Waqf — which has keys to the building — did not clear the building's opening with Israeli authorities for the first time, said Abu Labda. Israel responded by placing a chain over the door, prompting immediate outrage from Palestinian worshippers. The Waqf has

Associated Press

vowed to continue resisting the Israeli closure.

Demonstrations have devolved into standoffs with police. Israel has barred several guards and high-ranking Waqf officials from the compound and arrested dozens of Palestinians under suspicions of inciting violence at the site.

That the closure of one building containing some offices and a small library can spark such a reaction speaks to the sensitivity and potency of the plateau, revered by Jews as the Temple Mount and by Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary. The walled compound, home to the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the golden Dome of the Rock, is the third-holiest site in Islam and the holiest site of Judaism and has been the source of major confrontations in the past.

With a few exceptions, a tenuous calm has prevailed at the compound, in large part due to intricate security arrangements between Israeli authorities and the Waqf. But any change in the status quo can inflame tensions. □

Algerians stage largest protest yet against Bouteflika

By AOMAR OUALI

Associated Press

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP) — Hundreds of thousands of protesters flooded the streets of the Algerian capital in their third, and largest, Friday protest to try to break President Abdelaziz Bouteflika's hold on power. Wrapped in Algerian flags, singing and tossing flowers, festive crowds overflowed into all the main boulevards and other streets in the city on the Mediterranean.

There was no official count of the crowd size, but a police chief estimated about 500,000 when asked.

Tensions flared as the hours-long march began to disperse, with police firing tear gas at flanks of protesters trying to move toward the presidential palace, repeating a scenario from last Friday's protest. Small groups were seen pulling



Algerian lawyers carrying their national flag march to the constitutional council in a protest against President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, Thursday March 7, 2019 in Algiers.

tiles from the roof of the antiquities museum to lob at police, drawing volleys of tear gas.

The troublemakers weren't representative of the much larger streams of peaceful protesters pouring through streets with chants against Bouteflika, who has been far from the angry crowds

in a Geneva hospital for nearly two weeks for what his office described as medical tests.

The protesters are challenging Bouteflika's fitness to run for a fifth term in next month's election. The Algerian leader has been in power since 1999 but has been all but absent from

the public eye since a stroke in 2013. The protesters converged after prayers while onlookers threw flowers and confetti from flag-draped balconies. Security forces watched from the sidelines. It's the third Friday running people have protested, and the demonstrations have continued into the week. Calls have gone out on social media for a general strike if the government doesn't cede.

"Game over" was scrawled on a poster held high by some protesters, a slogan seen at other demonstrations. Among the chants was "4 plus 1 = 0" — an illusion to Bouteflika's bid for a fifth term. His eligibility, and that of 20 other candidates, is to be decided next week by the Constitutional Council. Several potential heavyweights have withdrawn from the race.

Demonstrations were held in other Algerian cities, from Tizi Ouzou in the Kabylie region east of the capital to the southern reaches of what is Africa's largest country by surface. The reliable online site TSA Algeria said protests were held in Ghardaia and the desert city of Hassi Messaoud, a site for Algeria's oil fields. Hydrocarbons are the nation's main source of income.

More than a dozen political parties and unions have thrown their support behind the widening street protests.

At a meeting that ended late Thursday, 15 opposition parties and four unions praised the protest movement and criticized the government for its "stubborn power" in insisting upon the elections in April. □

Associated Press



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China calls US-North Korea summit an 'important step'

By CHRISTOPHER BODEEN

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — The U.S.-North Korea summit in Vietnam last week was an "important step" toward denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula, China's foreign minister said Friday, despite criticism that the meeting ended early without leading to an agreement.

The Hanoi talks between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un were "worthy of full recognition," Foreign Minister Wang Yi said at a news conference on the sidelines of the annual meeting of China's ceremonial legislature.

"We feel like this meeting was an important step in finding a political resolution to the (Korean) Peninsula issue," Wang said. That the two "leaders overcame obstacles to meet again in a candid face-to-face discussion itself represents a positive development that must be applauded."

He encouraged the two countries to "remain patient," and noted that many issues concerning



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi speaks during a press conference on the sidelines of the annual meeting of China's National People's Congress (NPC) in Beijing, Friday, March 8, 2019.

Associated Press

the peninsula "cannot be solved overnight."

Trump and Kim's summit ended abruptly Feb. 28 after a dispute over how much sanctions relief Washington should provide Pyongyang in return for nuclear disarmament steps. No agreement was reached.

Wang said China favors a

phased approach to ending the North's nuclear program in return for a reduction in sanctions, in contrast with U.S. demands that Pyongyang end the program permanently in one fell swoop.

"All parties need to have reasonable expectations and one should not set the bar too high at the outset

or make unilateral, unrealistic demands," Wang said. "In China's view, the key to solving the issue lies in not being a prisoner of history and breaking the cycle of mistrust," he said, adding China would continue playing its "irreplaceable role" in promoting negotiations.

China is North Korea's only

major ally and a chief provider of energy and trade that keeps the country's broken economy afloat. In recent years, however, China has agreed to increasingly strict United Nations sanctions over the North's nuclear programs and missile tests, although Pyongyang has not carried out such activities for more than a year.

After a period of frosty times, Chinese leader Xi Jinping met four times with Kim last year, Wang noted. He declined to say whether Xi had any plans to visit Pyongyang.

During the wide-ranging two-hour briefing, Wang also strongly defended China's massive "belt and road" initiative against accusations it is mirroring poor nations in poverty to pay for Chinese financed ports, power plants and highways. Wang said the \$1 trillion infrastructure program linking China to Europe, Africa and other parts of Asia had been endorsed by 72 countries and had already racked up considerable success. □

Chinese relatives of missing MH370 passengers seek answers

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Around 40 people gathered outside China's foreign ministry Friday to seek answers on the ill-fated Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, which took away their loved ones exactly five years ago.

The plane disappeared on March 8, 2014, on a journey from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing. The majority of the 239 people on board were Chinese.

While the mystery initially captured the world's attention and prompted a joint search effort by China,



A relative of passengers on board the missing Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 (MH370) weeps after a meeting with Chinese Foreign Ministry officials in Beijing, Friday, March 8, 2019.

Associated Press

Malaysia and Australia, the whereabouts of the plane remain unknown. Debris that washed ashore in the western Indian Ocean indicated the plane crashed in the remote southern Indian Ocean.

"Why does the world stop talking?" asked Guan Zhongping, whose daughter was on the flight.

"Why is it totally covered up?" he said. "We, the relatives, want to put a question mark on this."

Zhang Niuli, who lost her daughter on the flight, said the families met with a for-

foreign ministry director surnamed Chen for about 15 minutes. Zhang said they were disappointed Chen didn't have any direct responses to their questions.

After the two years-long joint underwater search in the southern Indian Ocean was called off in January 2017, a U.S. company attempted an exploration last May that also yielded no results.

But there have been rumblings that Malaysia may resume its search, said Jiang Hui, whose mother was among the passengers. □

Massive Venezuela power outage raises tensions amid crisis

By **SCOTT SMITH**
FABIOLA SANCHEZ
CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Hospitals struggled to get back-up generators running, businesses shuttered and families anxiously tried to contact loved ones amid Venezuela's worst-ever power outage Friday, raising tensions in a country already on edge from on-going political turmoil.

Much of the nation of 31 million people was still without electricity as the blackout stretched into a second day and patience began to wear thin.

"This has never happened before," a frustrated Orlando Roa, 54, said, decrying President Nicolas Maduro's administration for failing to maintain the electrical system and letting qualified engineers leave the country. "This is the fault of the government."

Maduro ordered schools and all government entities closed and told businesses not to open to facilitate work crews trying to restore power.

The blackout was reported to have hit 22 of 23 states, striking during the peak of evening rush hour Thursday, sending thousands of people on long nighttime treks home through some of the world's most violent streets. Until now, Caracas had been spared the worst of a collapse in the nation's grid and the outage was still wreaking havoc more than 18 hours after it began.

Venezuela's socialist government blamed the power failure on right-wing extremists taking orders from the United States, including Florida Republican Sen. Marco Rubio, and said they were intent on causing pandemonium for several days but offered no proof.

"The electricity war declared and directed by the imperialist United States against our people will be overcome!" President Nicolas Maduro wrote on Twitter in his only public comments on the outage. "No one can defeat the people of Bolivar and Chavez. Maxi-



Mothers and relatives wait outside of an intense care room for babies at a clinic, during a power outage in Caracas, Venezuela, Thursday, March 7, 2019.

mum unity patriots!"

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo shot back saying only Maduro was to blame. "Maduro's policies bring nothing but darkness," Pompeo wrote on social media. "No food. No medicine. Now, no power. Next, no Maduro."

The outage comes as Venezuela is in the throes of a political struggle between Maduro and opposition leader Juan Guaido, the head of congress who declared himself the nation's rightful president in January and is recognized by the United States and about 50 other nations.

Without power to charge cell phones, normally hyper-active social media was eerily quiet. Even state TV — the government's main vehicle for handing down a political line to its followers — went silent. Those who managed to get a signal used the hashtag #SinLuz — meaning without light in English — to share images of cities throughout the country that on Friday resembled ghost towns.

One user posted a video of a nurse manually pumping air into the lungs of an infant. Others posted photos of long lines of cars queuing up at gas stations in hopes of getting fuel. A man anguished that he'd gone 17 hours without hearing from

his mother.

"What impotence!" he lamented.

Netblocks, a non-government group based in Europe that monitors internet censorship, said online connectivity data indicates the outage is the largest in recent record in Latin America. The observatory warned Friday that some of the remaining networks were starting to fall offline as generators and backups began depleting and cell towers shut down.

The director of CODEVIDA, a coalition of Venezuelan health advocacy groups, reported that thousands of dialysis patients were going without treatment as a result of the blackout. While some hospitals were able to rely on back-up power sources, others were dark.

At the maternity ward at the Avila Clinic in wealthy eastern Caracas Thursday night, several mothers wept as nurses held candles to monitor the vital signs of premature babies in incubators.

Zaida Rodriguez, 40, a cardiovascular technician, walked several miles to the private clinic where she works only to be told by bosses that she should leave because the facility would treat only urgent cases and operate with a skeleton staff in order to

save on power. "How is it possible for an oil country like ours to be without an emergency backup in place for these types of situations?" she asked. "This is pathetic." Venezuela's electrical system was once the envy of Latin America but it has fallen into disrepair after years of poor maintenance and mismanagement. High-ranking officials have been accused in U.S. court proceedings of looting government money earmarked for the electrical system.

While intermittent outages have become regular occurrences in Venezuela of late, rarely have so many states simultaneously been without power for such an extended period.

The government keeps home power bills exceptionally low — just a couple dollars a month — relying heavily on subsidies from the Maduro administration, which is under increasing financial duress.

The nation is experiencing hyperinflation projected to reach a mind-boggling 10 million percent this year, is grappling with food and medical shortages, and has lost about 10 percent of its population to migration in the past few years — including many with valuable energy expertise. Venezuela's economic

woes are likely to increase as U.S. sanctions against its oil industry kick in.

State-owned electricity operator Corpoelec blamed the outage on an act of "sabotage" at the Guri Dam, one of the world's largest hydroelectric stations and the cornerstone of Venezuela's electrical grid. Information Minister Jorge Rodriguez described it as a "cyber" attack intended to derail the whole system. He said electricity in Venezuela's eastern region had been restored within hours.

"What's the intention?" he said. "To submit the Venezuelan people to various days without electricity to attack, to mistreat, so that vital areas would be without power."

Pro-government officials often blame outages on Venezuela's opposition, accusing them of attacking power substations with Molotov cocktails, though they rarely provide any evidence. Guaido did a survey of Caracas Friday to evaluate the impact of the blackout, blaming Maduro for the sorry state of affairs and looking to capitalize on what some decried as a sign of Venezuela's newfound status as a "failed state" even though it sits atop the world's largest oil reserves.

"It's clear who is responsible for this disaster," he said, renewing his call for Venezuelans to take to the streets Saturday in protest. "They keep making excuses, they keep looking for scapegoats, when corruption, calamity are what have caused this situation." Rubio, who has been driving the Trump administration's confrontational stance toward Maduro, seemed to relish Rodriguez's accusations that he was somehow to blame for the power crisis.

"My apologies to people of Venezuela," the Florida Republican said in a message on Twitter. "I must have pressed the wrong thing on the 'electronic attack' app I downloaded from Apple. My bad." □

LOCAL



3rd place 'Best beach of the world' and 2nd place for the Caribbean Region Eagle Beach Aruba wins "Choice award for beaches" by TripAdvisor



ORANJESTAD — Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority received the great news that Eagle Beach for the third year in a row made it to the top list for best beaches in the world and the Caribbean region. Aruba won 3rd place for the "Travelers' Choice awards for beaches" out of a pool of 25 destinations. TripAdvisor recognized a total of 352 beaches around the world. The winners were chosen based on the amount and quality of the reviews received from visitors on TripAdvisor accumulated for a period of 12 months.

"We are very happy and satisfied to be winners of this prestigious category Travelers' Choice awards for Beaches presented by TripAdvisor. This award definitely puts Aruba on the global



map and serves as an inspiration to travelers to visit our island and enjoy a natural resource that is re-known worldwide", says Ronella Tjin-Asjoe- Croes, CEO of the Aruba Tourism Authority. TripAdvisor is a well-known worldwide traveler's site which enables travelers to give their review and opinions of their trips.

The site covers more than 8.1 million airlines, accommodations, experiences and restaurants. Nowadays it's a tendency that travelers choose their next destination based on reviews

and TripAdvisor offers this concept to their audience with 49 different markets worldwide.

"Crystal clear water, white sandy beaches and exotic places is what makes the list of nominees a very special one. There is something for everyone on this list", says Desirée Fish, Vice President of Global Communications for TripAdvisor. □

Congratulations to Aruba to have Eagle Beach awarded as one of the best beaches in the world.

Nos Clubhuis is gearing up for national holiday 'Dia di Bandera'



NOORD — 'Dia di Himno y Bandera' is a national holiday, proudly celebrating Aruba's flag and anthem, celebrated on March 18. Lots of folklore and contests surround this day and children as well as adults love to spend it enjoying local food in the company of family members and friends. At Nos Clubhuis, the hidden gem on top of Hadicurari

Restaurant, the day, is eagerly anticipated and preparations are in full swing.

During the entire Monday (March 18) guests may enjoy local food specials and a special price on a bucket of ice-cold Chill. The full day the bucket goes for \$18 and you will receive a free Aruba t-shirt

(while stock lasts). The live band DUCO will be performing at Nos Clubhuis during the Happy Hour and beyond at the home of the local fishermen.

It's the perfect ambiance to celebrate the pride of Aruba. You are invited! □

Feeling Sick during vacation? At Your Service: Experienced Doctor & Pharmacy under one Roof



PALM BEACH — Feeling sick is a miserable thing during vacation. This is the time of the year you should enjoy and relax, so staying in a hotel room bed with a sunstroke, skin allergy, ear infection or intestinal problems can be a bummer. The best thing to do is to recover as soon as possible, and Dr. Lili Beke of the Aruba Walk-in Clinic, together with Palm Beach Service Pharmacy are a one-stop-shopping solution.



A Walk-In Clinic to Walk To

First of all she is calm, kind and understanding. Personal touch is her trade mark and with more than 35 years of experience as a medical doctor she knows what's going on. Doctor Beke is located in Palm Beach, at the door steps of the hotel area and her clinic is appropriately named the Aruba Walk-In Clinic. "I'd like to put myself in the shoes of the visitor. Being in a strange place, sometimes far from family or even alone and feeling sick. You can feel lost and disorientated. I can understand that and try to give them comprehension and a welcome feeling while examining them. So they leave with a smile, even if they feel a bit sick." The doctor speaks seven languages: English, Dutch, German, French, Italian, Spanish and Papiamentu, meaning she can attend to almost any tourist from all over the world. "You can come in without an appointment and we have an emergency number that works 24/7, if necessary I will visit the patient where he/she is staying. We attend patients every day!" Her philosophy is as follows: As long as you enjoy what you are doing and like to help people, this profession is very rewarding." It sounds like the perfect place to heal.

Pharmacy & Drug Store with a Recipe for Success

Two quality parties that work together can only be a good thing. After you pick up your prescription at Dr. Beke's practice, you can go to the Pharmacy, right next door. The collaboration between these two results in a quick, efficient and quality service. It's just what you need when you feel the only thing you want is healing. Lennert van der Poel, general manager of the Pharmacy, which is part of a Group of 5 pharmacies, points out that convenience is not their only unique asset. "We carry a wide variety of medicines from the US, but most of the medicines come from the EU. The prices in the EU are considerably lower than in the U.S." All medicine are European registered with the same standard as U.S. products. "The law in the States allows visitors to get medicines here for the use of six months and many repeated guests or time share owners do so. This saves them a lot of money. It is however mandatory to have a prescription from a local doctor", says van der Poel. Most common medicines requested by visitors are antibiotic, pain killers and anti-allergy medications.

Naturally we wish you the healthiest, most wonderful vacation of your life on our Happy Island. But In case you are in need of a doctor and a pharmacy, just turn around, walk in and feel welcome to be cured! ☐



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For today's newspaper we received great pictures from Sue Tedesco from Saratoga Springs NY. She wrote:

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Goodwill Ambassadors at the Divi All Inclusive

ORANJESTAD — Recently, Darline de Cuba of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Goodwill Ambassadors. The Distinguished Visitor certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 10 years and more consecutively.

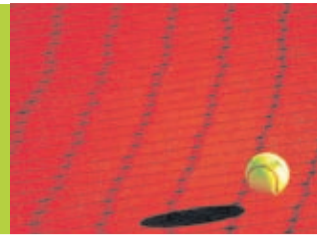
The honorees were Harry & Ann McInnis, residents of Cotuit MA and Joseph & Darlene from New York.

These wonderful people stated that they love the island very much, especially for the year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches, its safety, the delicious variety of foods and Aruba's warm and friendly people.

De Cuba together with Francis Ridderstap of the Divi All Inclusive presented the certificate to the honorees, and also handed over some presents and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home away from home. □



SPORTS



Santa Anita tested as hoof beats yield to sounds of silence

By **BETH HARRIS**
AP Racing Writer

ARCADIA, Calif. (AP) — The dirt track at eerily quiet Santa Anita is being tested extensively after the deaths of 21 thoroughbreds in two months forced the indefinite cancellation of racing and disrupted the workday world of horses, trainers and jockeys.

The sound of pounding hooves on the dirt was replaced Thursday by silence punctuated by the honking of two Canada geese flying over the green Art Deco grandstand.

Clockers' Corner, the popular morning hangout for owners, trainers, jockeys and fans to watch workouts and grab breakfast, was empty save for a few people.

The stable area, usually hectic with horses moving back and forth to the track, was wide open. With nowhere to jog or gallop, horses gazed out from their stalls.

A machine moved around the mile oval under overcast skies, raking and aerating the track after heavy rain a day earlier turned the dirt into a gooey, peanut butter-like substance.

Dennis Moore, track superintendent at Del Mar and Los Alamitos in nearby Orange County, walked along the inner rail, pausing in spots to check the dirt. Moore was called in by Santa Anita's owner,

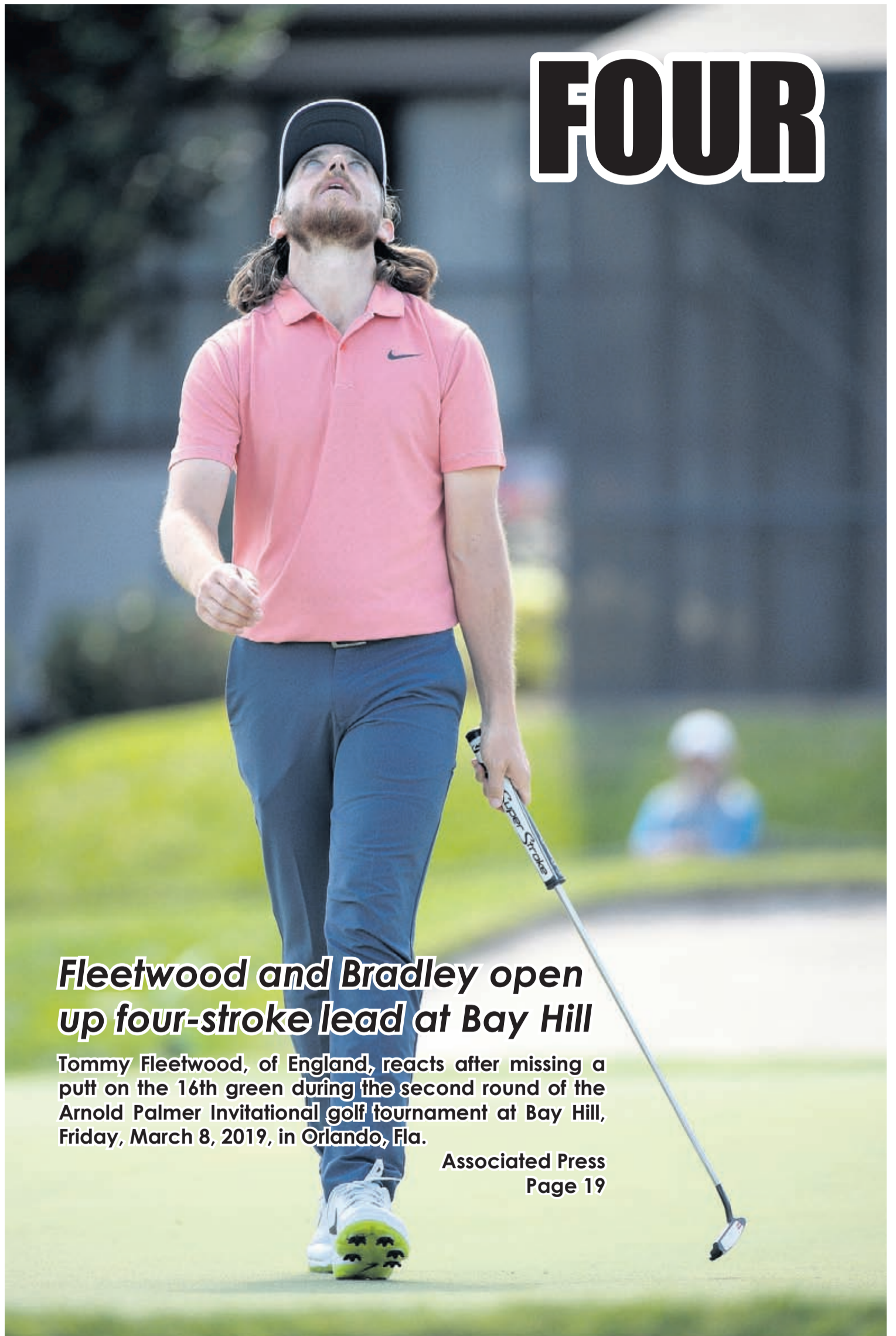
Continued on Page 23

FOUR

Fleetwood and Bradley open up four-stroke lead at Bay Hill

Tommy Fleetwood, of England, reacts after missing a putt on the 16th green during the second round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational golf tournament at Bay Hill, Friday, March 8, 2019, in Orlando, Fla.

Associated Press
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Vlhova wins giant slalom, Shiffrin closes in on season title

SPINDLERUV MLYN, Czech Republic (AP) — Mikaela Shiffrin closed in on her first women's World Cup giant slalom trophy Friday after placing third in the penultimate race of the season, which was won by world champion Petra Vlhova. Shiffrin leads her Slovakian rival by 97 points in the discipline standings with only one event remaining at next week's World Cup Finals in Soldeu, Andorra. A race win is worth 100 points.

"I think there is still something possible at the finals so I won't celebrate yet. But I am really happy to have this kind of advantage," said Shiffrin, who has already successfully defended her overall and slalom titles.

After three overall and six slalom championships, it would be the 10th career crystal globe and third of the season for Shiffrin, who is also in the hunt for the super-G title.

"Slalom, overall and GS are my biggest goals this year so it's an incredible place to be right now," the American said.

Vlhova built on her commanding first-run lead of nearly a half-second to beat Viktoria Rebensburg of Germany by 0.11 seconds.

Shiffrin, who was 1.33 behind in fourth after the opening run, posted the fastest time in the final run and improved to third, 0.60 behind Vlhova. Tessa Worley of France, who was runner-up in the GS standings before the race, finished seventh to drop out of contention.

It was Shiffrin's first race in 17 days after sitting out events



Slovakia's Petra Vlhova celebrates winning an alpine ski, women's World Cup giant slalom, in Spindleruv Mlyn, Czech Republic, Friday, March 8, 2019.

in Crans-Montana and Sochi to recharge following the world championships and a parallel city event in Sweden.

Returning to the resort where she started her World Cup career at the age of 15 in 2011, Shiffrin struggled in the opening run. She started aggressively and led Vlhova by 0.13 at the first split time, but failed to find a smooth rhythm in the rest of her run and trailed by 1.33 in fourth.

"When I saw the video (from the first run) I was pretty disappointed," Shiffrin said.

"To compete with the best, with Vicky and Petra, I had to do better on everything."

After finishing her second run well ahead of the competition, Shiffrin bent forward and briefly screamed for relief.

"The second run was much, much better so I am really happy with that," she said. "So happy to have a podium."

Initially a slalom specialist, Vlhova has evolved into a leading giant slalom contender, winning her first World Cup races in the dis-

cipline in Semmering and Maribor this season. Vlhova added gold at last month's world championships, where she and Rebensburg finished 1-2.

On Friday, Vlhova impressed in both runs with a strong recovery from a mistake.

"I knew I did a big mistake but I had a really good feeling in the steep part," she said between runs. "In the last part I just let my skis go and I was really fast."

Vlhova repeated the feat in the final run. She quickly lost four-tenths of her ad-

vantage over Rebensburg and even trailed the former Olympic champion from Germany by 0.15 halfway through her run, but skied a solid bottom section to get the green light at the finish. "It was not easy but I did it and it's something amazing," said Vlhova, loudly cheered by many of her Slovakian fans. "It's something special because I feel like at home here. Those fans (are) something amazing."

A slalom on the same course is scheduled for Saturday. □

Associated Press

Halep wins, Stephens ousted in 2nd round at Indian Wells

INDIAN WELLS, Calif. (AP) — Sloane Stephens lost to Stefanie Voegele of Switzerland 6-3, 6-0 in just over an hour Friday in the second round of the BNP Paribas Open.

The fourth-seeded American committed 32 unforced errors while Voegele

had four aces playing in windy conditions in the Southern California desert. Voegele improved to 4-1 against the 2017 U.S. Open champion.

No. 2 seed Simona Halep beat Barbora Strycova 6-2, 6-4. Other seeded winners were: No. 12 Ashleigh Barty,

No. 20 Garbine Muguruza, No. 22 Jelana Ostapenko, and No. 18 Qiang Wang. Stephens wasn't the only seed to be ousted on the women's side.

No. 14 Daria Kasatkina, a finalist last year, lost to Marketa Vondrousova 6-2, 6-1; No. 19 Caroline Garcia lost

to Jennifer Brady 6-3, 3-6, 6-0; No. 27 Su-Wei Hsieh was beaten by Johanna Konta 6-0, 6-2; and No. 29 Mihaela Buzarnescu lost to Daria Gavrilova 6-2, 6-2.

In men's opening-round matches, Steve Johnson beat fellow American Taylor Fritz 6-3, 6-3 and Stan

Wawrinka edged Daniel Evans 6-7 (4), 6-3, 6-3. Also advancing were Feliciano Lopez and Hubert Hurkacz. Novak Djokovic, the world's top-ranked player, won his first-round doubles match with Fabio Fognini. They beat Jeremy Chardy and Milos Raonic 7-6 (5), 6-1. □

Fleetwood, Bradley tied for lead at Bay Hill



Keegan Bradley lines up a putt on the ninth green during the second round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational golf tournament Friday, March 8, 2019, in Orlando, Fla.

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Bay Hill provided a few dramatic turnarounds, good news for Henrik Stenson, not so much for Phil Mickelson. Through it all, Tommy Fleetwood and Keegan Bradley kept a steady march of solid golf Friday and wound up tied for the lead at the Arnold Palmer Invitational, four shots clear of anyone else going into the weekend on a course that has been tough all week. Fleetwood used two new clubs to produce two eagles, which carried him to a 6-under 66. Bradley, with the renewed confidence of a player who last year ended six years without a PGA Tour victory, made all but one of his six birdies on the par 4s and had a 68. They were at 9-under 135, the highest score to lead Bay Hill through 36 holes since 2013. Tiger Woods wound up winning that year, which won't be the case. Woods is home nursing a sore neck. That also was the last time Mickelson was at Bay Hill, and this trip lasted only two days. Mickelson hit a pair of horrific drives — one out-of-bound, another into water he couldn't see off the tee at No. 8 — that led to double bogeys. With only one birdie on his card, Mick-

elson was 10 shots worse than his opening round and posted a 78. He missed the cut by one shot. "It's a penalizing course if you don't hit very good shots, and I hit some terrible shots today," Mickelson said. "That's probably the score I deserved." On the other side was Stenson, who opened with a 77 and then headed to the range with swing coach Pete Cowen. The former British Open champion responded with a 66, an 11-shot improvement, that left him eight shots behind, though still a tee time Saturday. "A couple of hockey sticks yesterday and a 66 today. That was a nice turnaround," Stenson said. "It seemed like I was hitting it good yesterday, didn't quite feel like I was in the same groove this morning in the warmup, and yeah, I still have to fight a little bit out there." Even with a four-shot advantage, Fleetwood and Bradley have to be concerned with more than themselves in the final group. Bradley would know from experience. He was eight shots behind going into the weekend in 2014 and was the runner-up by one shot, mainly courtesy of Adam Scott's troubled weekend. British Open champion Francesco Molinari, Honda

Classic winner Keith Mitchell and Billy Horschel led a pack of players at 5-under 139. The group another shot back included Masters champions Patrick Reed and Bubba Watson, and Eddie Pepperell, who is playing a regular PGA Tour event for the first time and got caught with his pants up. Actually, Pepperell did that himself. He was all too proud to roll up his pant legs and show off his new socks, which have an image of Jack Nicklaus making his birdie putt at Augusta National the year he won his sixth Masters. "Best round of the year, and probably a decade for me," Pepperell said. Never mind that this is the tournament named after Jack's rival. But it seemed to work. Fleetwood, a three-time winner on the European Tour, is ready to take the next step by winning in America, and he looked up to the task. Without an equipment contract ever since Nike got out of the club business, the Englishman is free to mix-and-match. He had five brands of equipment in his bag, and two new ones stood one. One is a Srixon 4-iron, which he hammered from 224 yards over the corner of the lake to 18 feet on the

par-5 sixth for eagle. The other was a Ping 7-wood that he took possession of on Tuesday, hit two shots and was sold on it. That replaced his 5-wood, the last Nike club he had. Fleetwood was 275 yards to the hole on the par-5 12th, and no sooner was the ball in the air that caddie Ian Finnis said, "Good shot." Finnish never says such a

thing until the ball actually returns to Earth, but he had a hunch on this one, and he was right. The ball landed just right and rolled out to 6 feet behind the flag on the upper right shelf of the green. "I couldn't have got a wedge as close as I actually hit it to that back right pin," Fleetwood said. He made that eagle putt, too. □

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Zucker gets hat trick, Wild tops NHL-leading Lightning 3-0

By The Associated Press undefined

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Jason Zucker scored all three of Minnesota's goals for his first career hat trick, Devan Dubnyk made 25 saves for his second shutout of the season and the Wild beat Tampa Bay 3-0 on Thursday night to deny the Lightning a chance to become the first NHL team to clinch a playoff spot.

Ryan Donato had a pair of assists for Minnesota, which blocked 18 shots by Tampa Bay. The Wild are 6-0-2 in their last eight games and are in the first wild-card spot in the Western Conference playoff race.

Andrei Vasilevskiy finished with 27 saves, but had his 10-game winning streak snapped one game short of tying the franchise record set by Louis Domingue earlier this season.

A victory by the Lightning would have clinched a playoff spot after Columbus loss to Pittsburgh earlier in Thursday night.

Tampa Bay lost for the second time in four games after a 12-0-2 stretch in the previous 14, and was shut out for the second time this season — first in regulation.

ISLANDERS 4, SENATORS 2
OTTAWA, Ontario (AP) — Valtteri Filppula scored twice to lead the New York past Ottawa and into a tie for first place in the Metropolitan Division with the Washington Capitals.

Anthony Beauvillier and Casey Cizikas also scored for the Islanders. Thomas Greiss stopped 35 shots.

Brady Tkachuk and Oscar Lindberg scored for the Senators, while Anders Nilsson made 27 saves.

BRUINS 4, PANTHERS 3
BOSTON (AP) — Patrice Bergeron scored twice, including the winner with 7.2 seconds remaining as Boston scored twice in the final minute to beat Florida and extend its points streak to 18 games.

David Krejci and Matt Grzelcyk also scored for the Bruins, who are 14-0-4 during their points streak. It matched the second-longest points streak in team history after a similar run last

season and 15-0-3 mark in the 1940-41 season. Tuukka Rask made 22 saves to extend his personal points streak to 18 games (15-0-3).

his 10th career shutout and Pittsburgh won the opener of a pivotal home-and-home with Columbus. Phil Kessel scored for the

wild card.

BLACKHAWKS 5, SABRES 4
CHICAGO (AP) — Jonathan Toews, Patrick Kane and Alex DeBrincat beat

The Flames were shut out for the first time since losing 2-0 at Dallas on Dec. 18, and were held scoreless for the fourth time this season.

OILERS 3, CANUCKS 2
EDMONTON, Alberta (AP) — Connor McDavid had two assists, Mikko Koskinen made 35 saves and Edmonton kept up its playoff push by beating Vancouver.

Alex Chiasson, Zack Kassian and Ryan Nugent-Hopkins scored for the Oilers (30-30-7), who have won four straight games and are 6-1-2 in their last nine to move within seven points of Minnesota for the second wild card in the Western Conference.

Jay Beagle and Alexander Edler scored for the Canucks (28-31-9), who have lost four of five.

SHARKS 5, CANADIENS 2
SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Tomas Hertl scored his career-high 30th goal of the season, Martin Jones made 37 saves and San Jose extended its two-decade home dominance over Montreal. The Sharks haven't lost at home to the Canadiens since Nov. 23, 1999, winning 12 straight. San Jose won its eighth straight overall in the series.

Marcus Sorensen and Timo Meier each scored for the third game in a row, Joe Thornton also had a goal and Gustav Nyquist added an empty-netter.

Artturi Lehkonen and Andrew Shaw scored for the Canadiens. Antti Niemi made 20 saves.

BLUES 4, KINGS 0
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Vladimir Tarasenko had a goal and an assist, Jake Allen stopped 28 shots for his 19th career shutout and St. Louis beat Los Angeles.

Tyler Bozak, Ryan O'Reilly and Ivan Barbashev also scored for Blues, who won back-to-back games against Anaheim and Los Angeles to open their three-game California trip. Brayden Schenn had two assists. Allen's shutout was his third this season.

Jonathan Quick made 28 saves for the Kings, who have lost 12 of their past 13 games. □



Minnesota Wild left wing Jason Zucker (16) celebrates his goal against the Tampa Bay Lightning with center Ryan Donato (16) during the first period of an NHL hockey game Thursday, March 7, 2019, in Tampa, Fla.

Associated Press

Jonathan Huberdeau scored twice and Alexander Barkov also had a goal for the Panthers, who lost their sixth straight (0-2-4). Roberto Luongo finished with 24 saves.

RED WINS 3, RANGERS 2
DETROIT (AP) — Andreas Athanasiou scored in the third period and had the only goal in a shootout as Detroit snapped an eight-game losing streak with a win over New York.

Tyler Bertuzzi also scored and Jimmy Howard made 32 saves for the Red Wings, who ended their longest skid of the season.

Detroit played without leading scorer Dylan Larkin and top-scoring defenseman Mike Green. Larkin was out with a back injury and Green will miss the rest of the season because of a virus.

New York's Pavel Buchnevich made it 2-all with 5:31 left in the third by scoring his second goal of the game on a breakaway. The Rangers have lost a season-high six straight.

PENGUINS 3, BLUE JACKETS 0

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Matt Murray stopped 25 shots for

first time in 17 games for the Penguins. Nick Bjugstad collected his ninth of the season for Pittsburgh. Sidney Crosby took a high stick from Columbus' Boone Jenner in the third period but returned to add an empty-net goal and extend his goal streak to six consecutive games for the Penguins.

The Penguins have won eight straight over Columbus and moved into third place in the Metropolitan Division.

Joonas Korpisalo received a surprise start and finished with 28 saves for Columbus.

STARS 4, AVALANCHE 0

DALLAS (AP) — Alexander Radulov recorded his first career hat trick in his return after missing the previous game for disciplinary reasons, and Ben Bishop stopped 31 shots in his second consecutive shutout for Dallas.

Radulov earned his first hat trick in his six NHL seasons. He has 20 goals this season. With its fourth win in a row, Dallas has 75 points and moved five points ahead of the Avalanche, who started the night the first team out of the second

Carter Hutton during a perfect shootout as Chicago beat Buffalo.

Artem Anisimov scored twice for Chicago, which had dropped four of five. Duncan Keith and Brendan Perlini also scored, and Corey Crawford made 35 saves.

Zach Bogosian scored a short-handed goal in the second period for Buffalo, which lost for the fifth time in six games. Vladimir Sobotka, Brandon Montour and Kyle Okposo also scored.

COYOTES 2, FLAMES 0

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Darcy Kuemper made 30 saves to shut out Western Conference-leading Calgary.

Clayton Keller and Jakob Chychrun scored goals for the Coyotes, who sent the suddenly struggling Flames to their fourth straight defeat.

Kuemper improved to 16-4-3 in goal since Jan. 1. Arizona has won seven of eight and kept pace with wild-card leaders Dallas and Minnesota. The Coyotes are three points out of the second wild-card spot in the West.

Women's national soccer team players sue for equitable pay

By ANNE M. PETERSON
AP Sports Writer

Three months before beginning their defense of their Women's World Cup title, American players escalated their legal dispute with the U.S. Soccer Federation over equal treatment and pay.

Players filed a federal discrimination lawsuit against the federation Friday, alleging ongoing "institutionalized gender discrimination" that includes unequal pay with their counterparts on the men's national team.

The women's team has often championed equal rights issues and sought more equitable pay during collective bargaining two years ago.

"I think a lot of people look to us and our team and the collective voice that we have and what we've stood for, for inspiration and for power, and as an ally in this broader fight for equality and human rights, really," said winger Megan Rapinoe, a co-captain and veteran of 149 international appearances.

The 28 members of the current women's player pool filed the lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles under the Equal Pay Act and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. The lawsuit, which seeks class-action status, was filed on International Women's Day.

Players seek damages that include back pay.

"We believe it is our duty to be the role models that we've set out to be and fight to what we know we legally deserve," forward Christen Press told The Associated Press. "And hopefully in that way it inspires women everywhere."

The U.S. Women's National Team Players Association is not party to the lawsuit but said in a statement it "supports the plaintiffs' goal of eliminating gender-based discrimination by USSF."

The USSF did not have an immediate comment.

The men's and women's U.S. national teams have separate collective bargaining agreements, and their pay is structured dif-



United States' Tobin Heath, second from right, is congratulated on her goal by Mallory Pugh (11), Megan Rapinoe and Alex Morgan (13) during the first half of a SheBelieves Cup soccer match against Brazil Tuesday, March 5, 2019, in Tampa, Fla.

ferently. That means there is no dollar-to-dollar salary comparison.

The lawsuit claims that from March 2013 through Dec. 31, 2016, when the previous collective bargaining agreement expired, players on the women's team could make a maximum salary of \$72,000, plus bonuses for winning non-tournament games as well as World Cup appearances and victories, and for Olympic placement.

"A comparison of the WNT and MNT pay shows that if each team played 20 friendlies in a year and each team won all 20 friendlies, female WNT players would earn a maximum of \$99,000 or \$4,950 per game, while similarly situated male MNT players would earn an average of \$263,320 or \$13,166 per game against the various levels of competition they would face," the lawsuit says.

It concludes that a top-tier women's player would make only 38 percent of

a similarly situated men's player.

A pay disparity was very apparent at the World Cup: In 2014, the federation gave the men's roster a performance bonus of nearly \$5.4 million after the U.S. went out in the round of 16 in Brazil. The women's team received a bonus of \$1.72 million after winning the 2015 World Cup in Canada.

The last time the U.S. men made the World Cup field (for Brazil) male players selected to the roster received a \$55,000 bonus, while the women received \$15,000 each for making the 2015 World Cup, according to court documents. Additionally, the men shared a \$2 million bonus for qualifying, while the women shared \$300,000.

The USSF has long maintained that any disparity is the result of separate collective bargaining agreements.

Compensation for the women includes a guaranteed salary and also

salaries paid by the USSF for their time with clubs in the National Women's Soccer League. The men get paid based on roster selection for appearances for friendlies and tournaments.

While star players on the women's team, like forward Alex Morgan, can make as much as their male counterparts because of endorsement deals, the disparity becomes greater for players with lesser profiles. Terms of the collective bargaining agreements have not been made public.

A group of players filed a complaint in 2016 with the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission that alleged wage discrimination by the federation. The new lawsuit effectively ends that EEOC complaint, brought by Morgan, Rapinoe, Becky Sauerbrunn, Carli Lloyd and former goalkeeper Hope Solo. The players received a right-to-sue letter from the EEOC last month.

Kathryn H. Ruemmler, a lawyer representing the

federation, wrote in a May 2016 letter to the EEOC that over the previous four years, women's national team players averaged almost \$280,000, a figure \$90,000 more than men's national team players. She pointed out that women receive benefits the men don't, including severance pay, medical insurance, maternity leave, child care and a relocation allowance.

Ruemmler also said men's games generated about \$144 million from 2008-15, while women's matches generated \$53 million, and television ratings for men's games from 2013-15 averaged twice the figure for women's matches.

But those figures were for years prior to the women's 2015 World Cup victory and also did not include the men's failure to reach the 2018 World Cup. The women's team brought in \$6.6 million in profit in 2015, compared to less than \$2 million for the men's team.

Following the EEOC action, the women took the fight for equality into contract negotiations and struck a collective bargaining agreement covering 2017-21. Players received raises in base pay and bonuses as well as better provisions for travel and accommodations, including increased per diems. It also gave the players some control of certain licensing and marketing rights.

The lawsuit filed Friday seeks "an adjustment of the wage rates and benefits" for the women.

"At the heart of this whole issue we believe that it's the right thing. We believe that there has been discrimination against us," Rapinoe said. "And while we have fought very hard and for a long time, whether that be through our CBA or through our players association, putting ourselves in the best possible position that we can to get the best deal that we can, we still feel that we don't have what we're trying to achieve, which is equality in the workplace." □



Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook, right, and forward Paul George high-five at the end of overtime of an NBA basketball game against the Portland Trail Blazers in Portland, Ore., Thursday, March 7, 2019. The Thunder won 129-121.

Associated Press

By The Associated Press undefined

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Russell Westbrook had 37 points and Paul George added 32 points and 14 re-

bounds for the Oklahoma City Thunder in a chippy 129-121 overtime win over the Portland Trail Blazers on Thursday night.

The victory gave the Thun-

Westbrook, Thunder top Lillard, Trail Blazers in OT

der a four-game series sweep of the Blazers this season.

Damian Lillard had 51 points for the Blazers, while Jusuf Nurkic added 13 points and 17 rebounds before he was sent off with his second technical with under a minute to go in regulation.

The teams had gone into the game knotted for third in the Western Conference — along with the Houston Rockets — with identical 39-25 records.

Westbrook's 3-pointer in overtime put the Thunder up 118-117 and he made a pair of free throws to extend the lead. After George made the second of a pair of free throws, Westbrook's layup gave Oklahoma City a 123-117 lead. Regulation ended with a wild final minute when George appeared to elbow Nurkic,

who was knocked to the floor as Terrance Ferguson made a layup that put the Thunder up 113-111. Portland players protested, but no call was made.

Words were then exchanged between Nurkic and George under Portland's basket. After a review both received offsetting technicals, and a foul was called on the Thunder. Because Nurkic already had a technical, he was ejected and the Thunder chose Blazers reserve Skal Labissiere to make the free throws. He missed both, but a loose-ball foul was called on the Thunder and Al-Farouq Aminu made both shots to tie it at 113 with 2.9 seconds left.

After a turnover by the Thunder, the game went to overtime.

BUCKS 117, PACERS 98

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 29 points and Khris Middleton added 27 to help the Bucks bounce back from their first consecutive losses of the season.

Milwaukee, which improved to an NBA-best 49-16, was coming off back-to-back losses to Utah and Phoenix after opening a five-game road trip with three victories.

The Bucks gained control with a 12-0 spurt early in the fourth quarter. Kyle O'Quinn opened the final period with a floater from the lane to bring the Pacers within 10 at 84-74. Ersan Ilyasova hit a 3-pointer to trigger the run, capped by Antetokounmpo's drive to make it 96-74 with 8:21 left. Myles Turner had 22 points and Bojan Bogdanovic 17 for the Pacers. □

More horsepower, downforce greet Cup Series at Phoenix

By DAVE SKRETTA
AP Sports Writer

AVONDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Joey Logano was fresh off the hauler in qualifying trim at ISM Raceway when he turned a lap in his No. 22 Ford that would have landed him squarely on the pole a year ago.

With plenty of room to spare.

The first showcase of NASCAR's new rules package on shorter tracks is taking place this weekend, and neither Logano nor anybody else seems to know what to expect. But with 750 horsepower and increased downforce, the early speed that everyone showed Friday came with a knowing nod.

"I was huffing and puffing after a couple of laps," Logano said. "I've never gone around this track that fast before. I haven't been behind another car, or ahead of another car, and I can't tell what it's going to be like tomorrow in practice. Just kind of unsure what it will look like."

Same with Sunday's race,



Joey Logano (22) does a burnout after winning a NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Sunday, March 3, 2019, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

for that matter. "This will be one of the major track position races of the year," said Denny Hamlin, who began his weekend on a golf course with a good omen: his second career hole-in-one. "How can your weekend go bad from that point? But you're going to have to qualify well and

have good restarts, because after that, it's going to be extremely tough to make up a lot of positions." The extra horsepower means wheel spin will be an issue for the first time this season, and that has the potential to make restarts exciting. The cool weather that arrived with the teams

this weekend is further boosting power.

"It was fun having the horsepower back with a lot more downforce," said Michael McDowell, the driver of the No. 34 Ford for Front Row Motorsports. "You had to really push yourself to go fast. Just muscle memory, you're used to lifting points

and brake points. But it was fun."

The increased horsepower also will be featured at road courses and other short tracks, and Daniel Hemric said it makes things "so much more demanding on the drivers." That's a welcome change for those who would rather have an opportunity to showcase their talent.

Kyle Busch won last year's playoff race at Phoenix, and so far his Joe Gibbs Racing team has been on the leading curve in figuring out this year's rules package. And while everyone is back to square one this weekend, after just one practice Busch already likes what he sees.

"The speed, any time you put downforce on cars, you'll go faster," he said. "I'm not sure what the tire difference is, (but) I feel as though the speed comes from the throttle time and the grip, and the amount of speed you're carrying through mid-corner keeps your speeds up all around." □

Santa Anita

Continued from Page 17

A white van stopped at various spots around the oval with its back door open to reveal a device that mimics the impact of a horse running at full gallop, allowing engineers to see how the surface holds up. Those results will be used to evaluate the consistency and uniformity of the dirt for training and racing.

Last week, ground radar testing was done on the various layers of the dirt surface.

"It's hard to find a smoking gun on these kind of deals," said Joe Harper, chief executive officer of Del Mar racetrack north of San Diego. "It's a combination of track and horse and conditions."

In 2016, Del Mar faced a similarly harrowing situation, with the deaths of 17 horses during its summer meet. Another five died during its fall meet.

The seaside track's surface was renovated and officials made procedural changes that led to improved safety. In 2017, there were a total of seven fatalities for both meets and four all of last year.

Harper credited Moore with helping solve Del Mar's problems.

Although weather hasn't been cited as a reason for Santa Anita's woes, Southern California is experiencing an unusually wet and

cold winter. The track received 11 1/2 inches of rain in February when temperatures failed to reach 70 degrees (21 Celsius) on any day.

Its surface has been continuously sealed, a process in which the dirt is packed down to reduce the amount of precipitation absorbed on dry days. Conversely, on rainy days the wet track was sealed in an attempt to provide a safe and even surface.

"The track might be safe, but it's inconsistent," Harper said. "It might be inconsistently good, but it's inconsistent and that seems to bother a horse more than anything."

Two top Kentucky Derby contenders — Game Winner and Improbable — were set to face off in the San Felipe Stakes at Santa Anita on Saturday. Instead, Hall of Fame trainer Bob Baffert will send both horses to Los Alamitos to work out on Sunday.

Plans for their next race will be decided after the workout. An option for Baffert's duo could be the Rebel Stakes on March 16 at Oaklawn Park in Arkansas.

Richard Mandella, another Hall of Famer trainer, said he's moved eight of his 40-horse stable to Los Alamitos to get in workouts. The others require basic training that can be done whenever Santa Anita's inner training track reopens.



The home stretch and stands are empty at Santa Anita Park in Arcadia, Calif., Thursday, March 7, 2019.

Associated Press

Mandella hasn't encountered any problems with the main track since racing began Dec. 26, but he knows "something is up. I'm trying to not panic and take care of my horses."

San Luis Rey Downs, a training center with a mile track in north San Diego County, was preparing to accept horses scheduled to race soon from Santa Anita, about 100 miles away. General manager Kevin Habell said the facility has 50 to 70 available stalls from its total of 400.

Del Mar is unlikely to take in any horses because a state-mandated water reclamation project is underway in its infield, making the dirt track unavailable for training.

Joel Rosario, who leads the jockeys' standings at Santa Anita, is waiting to hear when racing will resume before deciding whether to relocate earlier than planned for Kentucky, agent Ron Anderson said Thursday.

Hall of Fame jockey Mike Smith was headed to New York to ride Saturday in the Gotham Stakes at Aqueduct, a key Kentucky Derby prep.

Idling highly fit thoroughbreds for long stretches is not good for them, said Mandella.

"Most of them are ready to race and if all you do is just lead them around the barn and walk them, they'll hurt themselves just playing and acting up," he said. "They

need to do something. If you take it (racing) away, they get upset."

Thoroughbreds in training typically are up early in the morning for a jog or timed workout in preparation for a race.

The horses return to their barn, where they are bathed and walked around for 30 minutes or so before returning to their stalls. They'll spend the rest of the day eating, napping, getting a visit from a vet and receiving therapeutic treatment. They might also be reshod, before repeating the process the next day.

"It doesn't take much for a sedentary lifestyle to change their whole training routine," Harper said. □

Golovkin to return in June after signing deal with DAZN

NEW YORK (AP) — Gennady Golovkin will return to the ring in June after signing a multiyear deal Friday with DAZN, which gives him the possibility of a third fight with Canelo Alvarez.

No date or opponent was announced for the fight, which will be Golovkin's first since being edged by Alvarez last September in their second bout after they fought to a draw in the first one.

Alvarez already has an ex-

clusive deal with the sports streaming service and is set to meet Daniel Jacobs in a middleweight title unification match on May 4 in Las Vegas. The deal calls for Golovkin to fight twice a year on DAZN for the next three years, giving the longtime middleweight champion from Kazakhstan plenty of opportunities to regain titles.

The biggest one would be through another bout with Alvarez after their two close

contests, which were both pay-per-view fights. When Alvarez signed his contract last year, which his promotional company said would pay him a minimum of \$365 million, DAZN executive chairman John Skipper said he hoped it would help attract other top fighters.

He finally got Golovkin, whom he called "a generational talent with international appeal."

DAZN has all the middleweight champions, with



In this Sept. 17, 2017, file photo, Gennady Golovkin reacts following a middleweight title against Canelo Alvarez, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

WBO champion Demetrius Andrade also fighting on DAZN. He called out Go-

lovkin after defending his title in January, saying he would "destroy" Triple G. □

How Facebook stands to profit from its 'privacy' push

By FRANK BAJAK
AP Technology Writer
At first glance, Mark Zuckerberg's new "privacy-focused vision" for Facebook looks like a transformative mission statement from a CEO under pressure to reverse years of battering over its surveillance practices and privacy failures. But critics say the announcement obscures Facebook's deeper motivations: To expand lucrative new commercial services, continue monopolizing the attention of users, develop new data sources to track people and frustrate regulators who might be eyeing a breakup of the social-media behemoth. Facebook "wants to be the operating system of our lives," said Siva Vaidhyanathan, director of media studies at the University of Virginia. Zuckerberg's plan, outlined Wednesday, expands Facebook's commitment to private messaging, in sharp contrast with his traditional focus on public sharing. Facebook would combine its instant-messaging services WhatsApp and Instagram Direct with its core Messenger app so that users of one could message people on the others,



In this April 11, 2018, file photo Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg arrives to testify before a House Energy and Commerce hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington.

and would expand the use of encrypted messaging to keep outsiders — including Facebook — from reading the messages. The plan also calls for using those messaging services to expand Facebook's role in e-commerce and payments. A Facebook spokesperson later said it was too early to answer detailed questions about the company's messaging plans.

Vaidhyanathan said Zuckerberg wants people to abandon competing, person-to-person forms of communication such as email, texting and Apple's iMessage in order to "do everything through a Facebook product." The end goal could be transform Facebook into a service like the Chinese app WeChat, which has 1.1 billion users and includes the

world's most popular person-to-person online payment system. In some respects, Facebook was already headed in this direction. It has dabbled with shopping features in its Messenger app for a few years, although without much effect. And WhatsApp, which Facebook acquired for \$22 billion in 2014, embraced a strong privacy technology

known as "end-to-end encryption" nearly three years ago. Messages protected this way are shielded from snooping, even by the services who deliver them. But Zuckerberg said nothing in the Wednesday blog post about reforming privacy practices in its core business, which remains hungry for data. A recent Wall Street Journal report found that Facebook was still collecting personal information from apps such as user heart rates and when women ovulate. Facebook, which perfected what critics call "surveillance capitalism," knows it has serious credibility issues. Those go beyond repeated privacy lapses to include serious abuses by Russian agents, hate groups and disinformation mongers, which Zuckerberg acknowledged only belatedly. "Until Facebook actually fixes its core privacy issues — and especially given their history — it's difficult to take the pivot to privacy seriously," said Justin Brookman, who was a research director at the Federal Trade Commission before joining Consumers Union as privacy and technology chief in 2017. □

SpaceX crew capsule ends test flight with ocean splashdown

By MARCIA DUNN
AP Aerospace Writer
CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — SpaceX's swanky new crew capsule returned from the International Space Station to an old-fashioned splashdown in the Atlantic on Friday, successfully ending a test flight that could lead to astronaut rides later this year. The Dragon capsule undocked from the orbiting lab early Friday. Six hours later, the capsule carrying a test dummy parachuted into the ocean, a couple hundred miles off the Florida coast. It was the final hurdle for the six-day demo, a critical prelude to SpaceX's first flight with astronauts as early as summer. While improvements still need to be



In this image from video made available by NASA, the SpaceX Crew Dragon capsule is hoisted onto a ship in the Atlantic Ocean off the Florida coast after it returned from a mission to the International Space Station.

made, the company aims to fly NASA astronauts Bob Behnken and Doug Hurley on the next test flight. Astronauts have not launched from Florida for eight years, and NASA is eager to end the drought and reduce its costly de-

pendence on Russia for space station trips. SpaceX employees cheered and applauded at company headquarters near Los Angeles when the Dragon's red and white parachutes popped open. NASA televised the de-

scend live, the dramatic views coming from a plane. The crowd went wild once the capsule splashed down and was seen floating upright. "Just amazing. I can't believe how well the whole mission has gone" with all major milestones met, said Benji Reed, SpaceX's director of crew mission management. Space station astronauts have been stuck riding Russian rockets since NASA's shuttles retired in 2011. NASA is counting on SpaceX and Boeing to start launching astronauts this year. SpaceX — which has been delivering station cargo for years — is shooting for summer. NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine was ecstatic fol-

lowing splashdown. All this is "leading to a day where we are launching American astronauts on American rockets from American soil," he said. A pair of recovery ships was stationed in the Atlantic well before splashdown and quickly moved in, lifting the capsule from the water within an hour. The capsule is expected at Port Canaveral on Saturday night. Splashdown will occur much closer to shore once astronauts start flying. Astronaut Shane Kimbrough, part of the recovery team, said it was incredible watching the splashdown up close. The capsule had brown scorch marks from top to bottom, but otherwise looked fine. □

Home affordability watch: Priciest and cheapest time zones

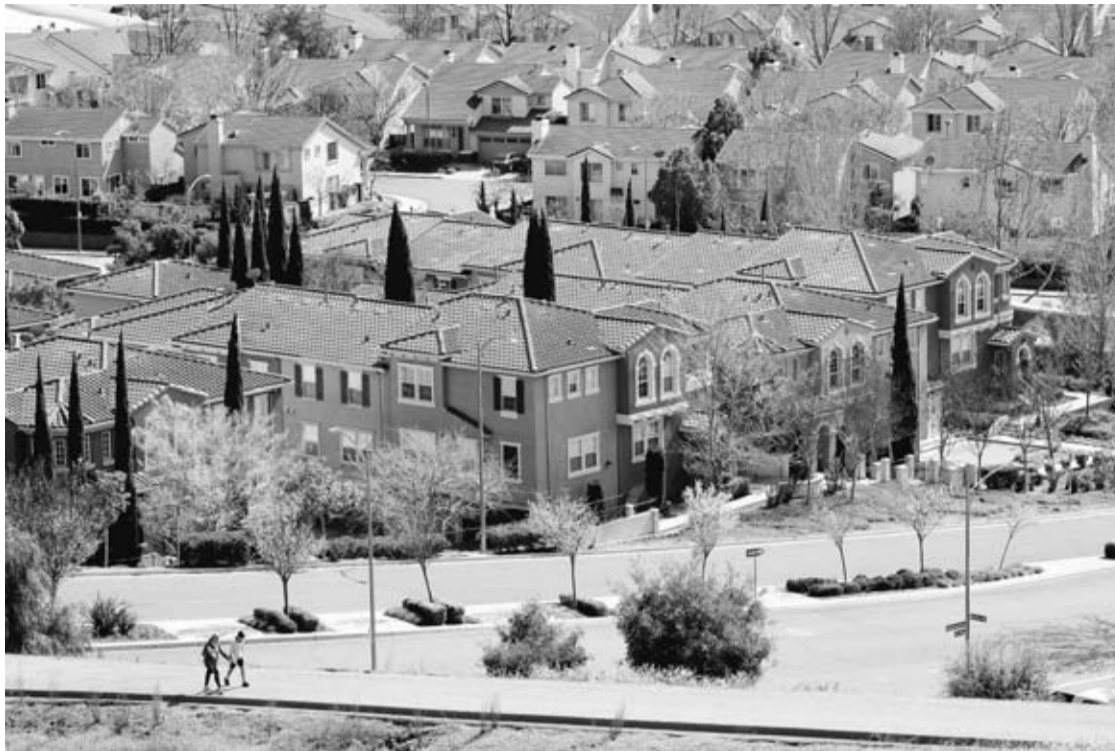
By HOLDEN LEWIS
NerdWallet
Associated Press

Cities in the Pacific time zone have the least-affordable housing in the country, and the Central time zone has the most-affordable housing.

Each quarter, NerdWallet calculates the home affordability for 178 metropolitan areas, matching the list of metros for which the National Association of Realtors publishes median home prices. This quarter, NerdWallet sorted the metro areas by time zone, highlighting differences in affordability.

NerdWallet compared median household incomes and median home prices, assuming a 20 percent down payment. A place with high incomes and low home prices is more affordable for buying a home than an area with low incomes and high home prices.

Here are the most and least affordable metro areas in each time zone of the contiguous U.S. in the fourth quarter of 2018, compiled using data from the National Association of Realtors, the U.S. Census Bureau and



In this March 6, 2018, file photo people walk along a path in front of a row of homes in San Jose, Calif.

NerdWallet surveys. (Honolulu, two time zones farther west, has the second-least-affordable homes in the country. NAR's quarterly price survey doesn't include cities in Alaska.)

PACIFIC TIME ZONE

MOST AFFORDABLE: KENNEWICK-RICHLAND, WASHINGTON

Median home price: \$278,400 (national median price: \$257,600)

Median household income: \$63,617

Principal and interest payment: \$1,183 (22.3 percent of median monthly income)

In Kennewick-Richland, a median-income household buying a median-priced house and putting 20 percent down pays 22.3 percent of that income on the mortgage's principal and interest. That's roughly the

same share of income as the least affordable housing market in the Central time zone.

LEAST AFFORDABLE: SAN JOSE-SUNNYVALE-SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA

Median home price: \$1.25 million

Median household income: \$117,474

Principal and interest payment: \$5,313 (54.3 percent of monthly income)

Associated Press

Here, in the country's most expensive metro area, a buyer of a typical home would get a \$1 million mortgage after a 20 percent down payment.

MOUNTAIN TIME ZONE

MOST AFFORDABLE: EL PASO, TEXAS

Median home price: \$157,900

Median household income: \$44,416

Principal and interest payment: \$671 (18.1 percent of monthly income)

While most of Texas is in the Central time zone, El Paso is so far west that it's in the Mountain zone. The median household income is modest, but so are home prices.

LEAST AFFORDABLE: BOULDER, COLORADO

Median home price: \$592,300

Median household income: \$80,834

Principal and interest payment: \$2,518 (37.4 percent of monthly income)

Boulder has been called "the most expensive non-resort town in Colorado," and the city's leaders have been searching for ways to make housing affordable for middle-income households. □

How the bull run altered the list of most valuable US stocks

Associated Press

When this bull market was born 10 years ago, just one of the most valuable companies in the market was a technology stock. Now, it's four out of five.

Back in March 2009, the biggest companies were familiar names with long histories in traditional industries like oil (Exxon Mobil) and makers of detergent and other household products (Procter & Gamble).

There is, however, one company that's among the most valuable today that was also among the Big Five back then: Microsoft.

These days, technology companies dominate the top five, as they do the market overall. After Microsoft, there's Apple, Ama-



In this Sept. 4, 2018, file photo a Nasdaq employee monitors market activity in New York.

Associated Press

zon, and Google's parent company Alphabet. At the beginning of the bull market, Apple's iPhone was just two years old and Google had just released its Android operating system for smartphones.

Today, the iPhone ac-

counts for most of Apple's revenue, helping Apple to become the first publicly traded company worth more than \$1 trillion last year. Amazon quickly followed suit. Both now trade well below that level, and jockey with Microsoft for

the most-valuable U.S. company title with valuations of around \$800 million or higher.

The explosion of value in those four stocks reflects the great amount of cultural influence, wealth and power that has been accumulated by big technology companies over the past 10 years. And Facebook, which didn't even become a publicly traded company until 2012, today is the No. 6 most valuable company in the U.S. with a valuation of nearly \$500 billion.

The roster of the most valuable companies at the bull market's birth is a window into what the economy looked like a decade ago: Exxon Mobil, Walmart, Microsoft, Procter & Gamble and AT&T.

Those companies are hard-

ly out of the picture today. They're all among 25 most valuable U.S. companies, and all but AT&T are in the prestigious 30-member club of the Dow Jones Industrial Average. And they've all had their share of change.

Berkshire Hathaway rounds out the top five most valuable companies today. Edging out Facebook in the valuation contest, Warren Buffett's sprawling company continues to defy categorization.

While it still owns sizable stakes in other companies such as American Express, Coca-Cola and Wells Fargo, it also owns outright a number of big operating businesses including the insurer Geico and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad. □

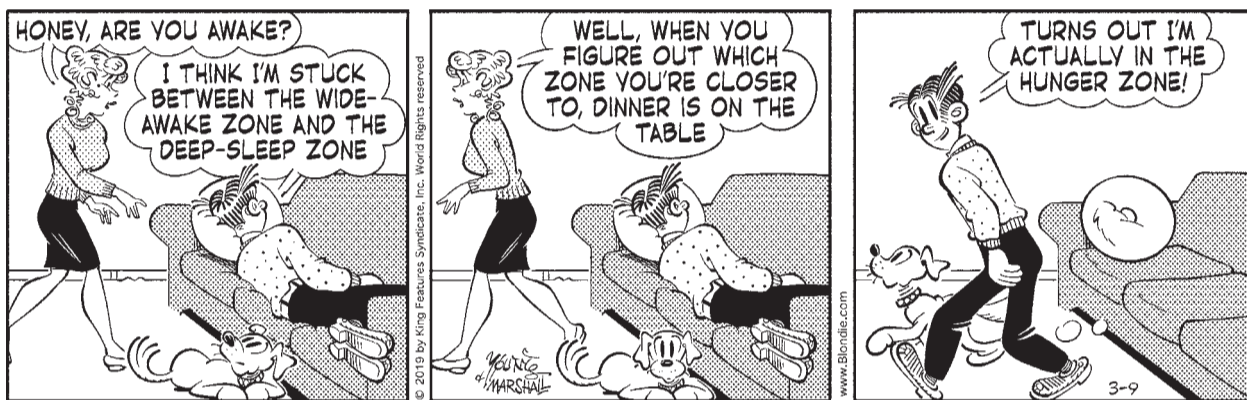
Mutts



6 Chix



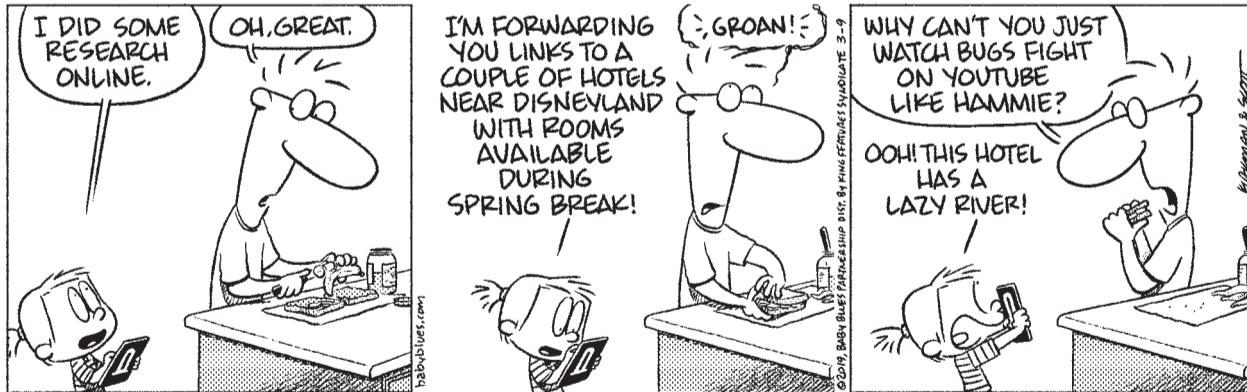
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	1		5					7
8			3	6				9
			1	3		5	8	
	2					9		
7	5		6	2				
3				8	6			7
	7			5		2		

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 3/09

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

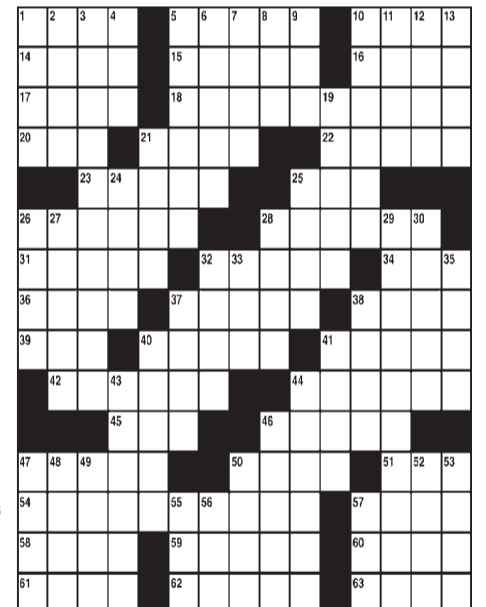
1	6	7	4	5	9	8	2	3
3	5	4	8	2	1	6	9	7
2	8	9	6	7	3	5	1	4
4	1	6	5	3	7	9	8	2
9	3	8	2	4	6	7	5	1
7	2	5	1	9	8	3	4	6
6	9	2	3	1	5	4	7	8
8	7	1	9	6	4	2	3	5
5	4	3	7	8	2	1	6	9

ACROSS

- 1 Solemn promises
- 5 Fleetwood RV
- 10 Qualified
- 14 Hawaiian island
- 15 Walking __; elated
- 16 Boast
- 17 Journey
- 18 Owning
- 20 Suffix for govern or count
- 21 Dryer residue
- 22 Calendar rows
- 23 Park __; Monopoly board square
- 25 " __ voyage!"
- 26 Spirited horses
- 28 Bricklayer's plaster
- 31 Is a breadwinner
- 32 West Point newcomer
- 34 Butterfly catcher's need
- 36 Greek letters
- 37 Parakeet's lunch
- 38 __-fry; wok meal
- 39 Heavy weight
- 40 Aalborg residents
- 41 Glow
- 42 Self-centered person
- 44 Cool dessert
- 45 Winnebagos & others
- 46 Stringed instrument
- 47 __ bean; chocolaty pod
- 50 Obi fabric
- 51 "NCIS" network
- 54 Single, and going with no one
- 57 Storage tower
- 58 Fibula or tibia
- 59 Hollandaise, for one
- 60 Tooth cavity symptom
- 61 Chopping tools
- 62 Change slightly
- 63 "Heidi" setting

DOWN

- 1 Cast a ballot
- 2 Doesn't have both __ in the water
- 3 Speaking very softly
- 4 Eat



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 3/9/19

Friday's Puzzle Solved

WADI	UFOS	SLOP
OMENS	NINE	TOGA
RIVAL	STARBOARD	
DDE	ORE	ERODES
LOWER	NAG	
ATONED	BISECT	
CAPER	SPITS	LAB
THIS	PIETY	TYKE
SON	SINGE	FADES
EGGNOG	DOCENT	
RAN	WANTS	
ESCAPE	ODD	DUD
COUNSELOR	AWAKE	
HORN	RICK	SALEM
ONLY	SETS	NESS

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- 5 Subjects
- 6 __ ear and out the other
- 7 Oven used for drying
- 8 Soldiers, for short
- 9 "Car 54, Where __ You?"
- 10 Not in class on a school day
- 11 Soft cheese
- 12 Long & slender
- 13 Breakfast order
- 19 Declared under oath
- 21 Boys
- 24 Camera's eye
- 25 Denver & Hope
- 26 Hot month: abbr.
- 27 Sierra Nevada lake
- 28 Pharmacy orders, for short
- 29 Standoffish
- 30 Take the __; assume control
- 32 __-up; confined
- 33 Late actor Bruce
- 35 Ash or aspen
- 37 Be impudent
- 38 Have nothing to do with
- 40 Loose piece of turf
- 41 Enjoy a long bath
- 43 Gives a speech
- 44 Not as harsh
- 46 Portion
- 47 Gloria Estefan's birthplace
- 48 As strong as __
- 49 Walking stick
- 50 Close
- 52 Radar screen image
- 53 Offspring
- 55 As proud __ peacock
- 56 Coolidge or Ripken
- 57 Refreshing spot

US regulators outline oversight on meat grown in lab dishes

Associated Press
NEW YORK (AP) — Burgers made by growing cow cells in a lab dish have a clearer path to reaching supermarkets as U.S. regulators on Thursday outlined how the emerging food category will be monitored. The U.S. Department of Agriculture said meat from cultured animal cells will have to undergo agency inspection, as with other meat and poultry products. Carmen Rottenberg of the USDA said she expects inspections to be similar to those for other meat-processing plants, but noted that a lot remains unknown since companies haven't yet scaled up to commercial production. Rottenberg also says the

agency expects a new label will be required for cell-cultured meat, meaning it likely won't be able to simply use terms like "ground beef" or "hamburger." Startups developing cell-cultured meat say their products would be more humane and environmentally friendly, since they don't require raising and slaughtering animals. The agreement on joint oversight, formalized Thursday, says the FDA will regulate the first stages of the process, including cell collection and growth, before handing off oversight of production and labeling to the USDA. The agencies say they'll continue working out details of how to regulate the products. □

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Chimps varied 'culture' matters for conservation, study says

By **CHRISTINA LARSON**
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Some chimpanzee groups are stone-throwers. Some use rocks to crack open tree nuts to eat. Others use sticks to fish for algae.

As researchers learn more about Homo sapiens' closest living genetic relatives, they are also discovering more about the diversity of behaviors within chimpanzee groups — activities learned, at least in part socially, and passed from generation to generation.

These patterns are referred to as "traditions" — or even animal "culture." In a new study, scientists argue that this diversity of behaviors should be protected as species themselves are safeguarded, and that they are now under threat from human disturbance.

"What we mean by 'culture' is something you learn socially from your group members that you may not learn if you were born into a different chimpanzee group," said Ammie Kalan, a primatologist at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany.

"As chimpanzee populations decline and their habitats become fragmented, we can see a stark decline in chimpanzee behavioral diversity," said Kalan, co-author of the sweeping new study published Thurs-



In this undated photo provided by Liran Samuni, chimpanzees in the Tai National Park in the Ivory Coast vocalize with another group nearby.

day in the journal Science. The 10-year study, led by researchers at the Max Planck Institute and the German Center for Integrative Biodiversity Research, examines data on 144 chimpanzee communities in Africa and the occurrence of 31 specific behaviors, such as tool usage or rock throwing.

The regions with the least human impact showed the greatest variety in chimp behaviors. But areas greatly altered by logging, road-building, climate change and other human activities showed markedly less behavioral diversity — an 88 percent lower probability

of exhibiting all behaviors. Multiple factors drive the loss, the authors say.

"With the increase of human disturbance, chimps may not be able to live in such large groups anymore — and it has been shown that group size is connected with social learning," said Hjalmar Kühl, also a primatologist at the Max Planck Institute and a co-author. The rocks had been thrown against the trees by chimpanzees for reasons still unclear to the scientists who first documented the behavior in 2016. Perhaps the purpose was to mark territory, or proclaim dominance within a group, or

start a game, or something else, the biologists surmised. But not all chimpanzees are stone-throwers.

Some groups use stones to crack open tree nuts. Researchers recently discovered an archaeological site in West Africa that showed chimpanzees had used stones there for nut-cracking for more than 4,000 years.

Elsewhere in West Africa, sticks were the tools of choice, with young chimps in Guinea learning from their elders to use them to "fish" in lakes for long strands of algae to eat. Or, in Nigeria, to poke termite mounds to gather the in-

sects for food.

Sixty years ago, scientists had limited knowledge of chimpanzees in the wild, until researcher Jane Goodall first recorded behaviors like tool usage, which previously were associated only with humans. In 1999, Goodall and other scientists popularized the phrase "chimpanzee cultures" in an article in the journal Science. The use of the term has ignited debate ever since — including resistance from some anthropologists — but also launched further research. Most likely genetics and socially learned behavior interact to form animal "culture" in chimpanzees and other species, said Carl Safina, an ecologist and author of several books on animal behavior who was not involved in the study.

This has implications for conservation.

"We have come to understand that behavioral diversity matters for protecting species," said Andrew Whiten, an evolutionary psychologist and zoologist at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, who was not involved in the study.

"The greater the diversity of behavior, the more likely a species will be able to deal with future changes and challenges in their environment," he said. "It's not good news when their options are limited." □

Facebook steps up fight against vaccine misinformation

NEW YORK (AP) — Social media giant Facebook says it will remove groups and pages that spread misinformation about vaccinations on its site.

It's the latest step Facebook and others are taking

to stem the tide of misinformation on social media sites.

Facebook said Thursday it will take its cue from global health organizations, such as the World Health Organization and the U.S. Cen-

ters for Disease Control and Prevention, which have publicly identified verifiable vaccine hoaxes.

If groups and pages spread those hoaxes, they won't appear in recommendations or in predictions functions when searched for in Facebook. Ads with similar information will be rejected. Federal health officials have attributed a recent spike in the number of measles cases in part to misinformation that has made some parents shun the vaccine.

The bogus notion that vaccines cause autism —

kicked off by a now disproven study from 1998 — didn't start on social networks but has spread there. While overall vaccination rates remain high in the U.S. according to the Centers for Disease Control, the number of kids under two who haven't received any vaccines is growing. The CDC attributes much of this to lack of health insurance

— uninsured kids are much more likely to be unvaccinated than children who have health insurance.

Vaccination against a list of diseases is required to attend school in the U.S., but 17 states allow some type of non-medical exemption for "personal, moral or other beliefs," according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. □

Exhibit on US Latina 'cholas' opens in Albuquerque

By RUSSELL CONTRERAS

Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) —

A national Hispanic center is displaying a unique art exhibit on the chola — the working class, Mexican-American urban female often associated with gangs. The National Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque opened the "Que Chola Exhibition" on Friday with pieces by artists from New Mexico, Arizona, California, Texas, and Colorado.

The displays feature the evolution of the chola from the World War II-era to the contemporary figure trying to survive in poor neighborhoods. Using paintings, photography and sculptures, the exhibit attempts to cover images of the chola as an urban warrior, a mentor, a mother and political figure.

Cholas, or homegirls, often refers to a particular Latina subculture in the U.S. characterized by a tough demeanor and distinctive style. They are identified by their clothing ranging



In this Wednesday, March 6, 2019 photo of the painting entitled "Coatlicue Lopez" by artist Pola Lopez hangs at the National Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque, before the opening of an exhibit on the chola, a working-class, Mexican-American female often associated with urban gangs.

Associated Press

from flannel shirts and khaki pants to their dark eye makeup and indigenous-theme tattoos.

The image of the chola gained popularity in the late 1980s and early 1990s with movies like "Colors" and "Mi Vida Loca" (My Crazy Life). In recent years, scholars have countered that the chola represents more than just gang activity. Latina scholars have argued that the chola's

image is a commentary of poverty in urban U.S. cities and symbolized a working-class Latina seeking to battle sexism.

Some Latina academics have playfully said on social media that "you can't spell scholar with the word 'CHOLA'."

Curator Jadira Gurule said she agreed that the chola is more than a so-called dangerous female gang member linked to criminal

activity. For many Latinas, Gurule said the chola also represents strength and perseverance.

"Many within our communities either were, or admired and wanted to emulate, the chola growing up," Gurule said. "She also represents real people with real experiences. The chola is a persona developed in response to racism and sexism. To reduce her to a gang member is shallow."

Pola Lopez, a Las Vegas, New Mexico, born artist who now lives in Los Angeles, said she was excited when she was asked to participate in the exhibit. "The chola...you can't mess with her," said Lopez. "She beautiful and represents us in many ways."

Her painting, "Coatlicue and Chola," features a homegirl leaning against a statue of an Aztec goddess. Nanibah Chacon, a Navajo and Hispanic artist from Arizona, said she wanted to create an image of a chola if she had been represented in midcentury advertisements. Her painting,

"Xicana Classic," depicts a chola from the 1970s sitting on a red circle and smiling with confidence.

The exhibit, which runs until Aug. 4, is the latest attempt to create a new image around the chola and expand her meaning.

The Los Angeles-based gang intervention group Homeboy Industries, for example, sells clothing designed by former cholas and runs Homegirl Cafe — a restaurant with food prepared by former gang members gaining new skills. The hip cafe is an offshoot of social enterprises founded by Jesuit priest Greg Boyle. And Art Laboe, a 93-year-old DJ based in Palm Springs, California, allows cholas every Sunday on his syndicated oldies show "The Art Laboe Connection Show" to call in and give dedications to their loved ones serving time in prison. Scholars and activists say the radio show helps humanize cholas since it allows listeners to hear cholas express emotions of love and pain. □

Siriano, fresh off Oscar glory, talks 'Project Runway'

By JOHN CARUCCI

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Christian Siriano didn't want the tuxedo gown he designed for Billy Porter at the Oscars to shock anyone. He simply wanted to make a bold statement about celebrating identity.

"You should be who you want to be on a red carpet, off a red carpet. Wear what you want to wear, no matter who you are, and I think that's what that was all about," Siriano said at a launch party Thursday ahead of the upcoming 17th season of "Project Runway," which premieres next Thursday on Bravo.

The velvet custom tuxedo look for Porter did cause a sensation on social media, but Siriano did not focus on any of the negative reaction, especially when he heard how it empowered school-age children in search of their identities.



Nina Garcia, from left, Elaine Welteroth, Brandon Maxwell, Karlie Kloss and Christian Siriano attend the season premiere of Bravo's "Project Runway" at Vandal on Thursday, March 7, 2019, in New York.

"I was thinking about reading these emails from young kids being like, 'I feel like I can wear what I want to wear to school now because of what Billy did.' And that's what it's all about," Siriano said.

There are plenty of chang-

es in store at "Project Runway." Nina Garcia, who has been with the series for its entire run, returns as a judge. But Siriano, a winner from Season 4, will replace Tim Gunn as show mentor. Another new face is model Karlie Kloss, who takes on

duties as the show's host, replacing Heidi Klum.

"I think Christian is our superstar from 'Project Runway.' He knows exactly what it takes, what it took, and how it's going to change your life once you're done with 'Project Runway.' So,

I think he's a perfect mentor," Garcia said.

Elaine Welteroth is another new addition to the show, serving as a judge. The former Teen Vogue editor called Siriano "America's designer darling."

"People watch him rise up on this show and they're invested in him and his career and so it's so cool to see this full-circle moment where he comes back, and he can kind of raise up the next generation of 'Project Runway' superstars," she said.

Siriano, who tried to separate himself from the show while he was building his company, is happy to come home and share his experiences with the young competitors.

"If they have a red carpet challenge, I was like, 'Well I just dressed seven people at the Oscars.' I know something about a red carpet challenge." □

In 'Triple Frontier,' a special-ops heist goes awry

By **JAKE COYLE**
Associated Press

Job opportunities seldom diverge as greatly as they do for the former special forces operatives of J.C. Chandor's "Triple Frontier." There is selling condos or taking contract work in an African warzone. There's stocking shelves at Walmart or taking down a South African drug lord. And you thought your LinkedIn profile had inconsistencies. Yet those are exactly the kinds of choices facing a quartet of ex-military veterans who are rounded up, "Blues Brothers"-style, by Santiago "Pope" Garcia (Oscar Isaac), their former brother in arms who now works for a mysterious company contracted vaguely by "a foreign government." With the promise of that old temptation — "one last job" — and the potential for a major payday, Garcia gathers each old pal — Tom "Redfly" Davis (Ben Affleck), William "Ironhead" Miller (Charlie Hunnam), Ben Miller (Garrett Hedlund) and Francisco "Catfish" Morales (Pedro



This image released by Netflix, shows Oscar Isaac, left and Ben Affleck in a scene from the film, "Triple Frontier."

Pascal) — with little trouble. Once at the pinnacle of their profession, they're all struggling to adapt to civilian life. Davis is a divorced, heavy-drinking real estate broker with little talent for it. Miller is getting his face kicked in as a cage fighter. "I say we deserve better," Garcia tells Davis. "You've

been shot five times for your country and you can't pay off your truck." "Triple Frontier," a Netflix release playing in theaters for a week before streaming, was first scripted by Mark Boal with plans for Kathryn Bigelow to direct. Both remain executive produc-

ers and Boal is a co-writer alongside Chandor. That "Triple Frontier" originated from the team behind "The Hurt Locker" and "Zero Dark Thirty" isn't surprising. It's similarly attuned to the under-rewarded sacrifice of elite American soldiers. But it's also a larger

leap into genre. Bountiful in dudes, guns and action scenes, "Triple Frontier" is the kind of proudly macho movie that's perhaps too familiar to moviegoers — though such a starry, big-budget thriller is more novel for Netflix.

"Triple Frontier" is both more and less than what it seems. The crew heads south to an unspecified country in South America (the title refers to the junction of Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay) where they plot, with the help of an insider (Adria Arjona), to take down a long-elusive drug lord named Lorea at his jungle hideaway and make off with millions. But "Triple Frontier" is only part heist movie. Its second half, a militaristic riff on "The Treasure of Sierra Madre," tailspins into a existential, survivalist thriller about greed and combat addiction. For many of the guys, especially Affleck's Redfly, being drawn back into the field is like relapsing. Trigger fingers again get itchy, to tragic ends. □

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	CXC MONTHU 6:00 8:20 FRI 6:00 8:20 11:20 SAT 3:20 6:00 8:20 11:20 SUN 3:20 6:00 8:20
	WE DIE YOUNG JEAN-CLAUDE VAN DAMME ELIJAH RODRIGUEZ MONTHU 5:20 7:35 9:30 FRI 5:20 7:35 9:30 11:35 SAT 1:10 3:15 5:20 7:35 9:30 11:35 SUN 1:10 3:15 5:20 7:35 9:30
	OPENING SATURDAY! MARIA CONCHITA ALONSO RAFAEL DE LA FUENTE ¡HE MATADO A MI MARIDO! SPANISH ROSA SALAZAR CHRISTOPH WALTZ
	DRAGON GERARD BUTLER CATE BLANCHETT MONTHU 4:15 6:30 8:45 FRI 4:15 6:30 8:45 11:00 SAT 2:00 4:15 6:30 8:45 11:00 SUN 2:00 4:15 6:30 8:45
	ALITA: BATTLE ANGEL TYLER PERRY CASSI DAVIS MONTHU & SUN 4:00 9:30 FRI/SAT 4:00 9:30 11:45
	WHAT MEN WANT TARAJI P. HENSON TRACY MORGAN MON/FRI 6:35 • SAT/SUN 1:25 6:35
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Patty Griffin's elegant songs are deeply meditative



This image released by PGM Recordings shows the self-titled album for Patty Griffin.

By **PABLO GORONDI**
Associated Press

Patty Griffin, "Patty Griffin" (PGM/Thirty Tigers)
It's taken Patty Griffin more than 20 years and nearly a dozen albums to issue a self-titled release. There may be no particular reason for the designation, but considering its intensely meditative character, her

recently-revealed successful battle with cancer and her dedication to besieged causes like refugees and the environment, it seems like a deliberate choice.

Recorded mostly in the Maine native's Austin, Texas, home studio with longtime collaborator Craig Ross, "Patty Griffin" varies seamlessly between American folk, Celtic-rooted tunes, chansons and beyond with the excellence and elegance Griffin's songwriting has deservedly become known for.

David Pulkingham's Mediterranean-style guitar phrases underpin opener "Mama's Worried," one of several songs on the 13-track album that include seas, rivers and oceans as symbols of strength, vastness and even justice. "River" may be about a woman who is "ever changing and undefined," or it could be an ode to an admired waterway with a will of its own. "Coins" is one of two tracks featuring Griffin's ex-beau Robert Plant, whose harmonies are endearingly subtle and supportive, with his contribution to "What Now" — a yearningly-sketched song of uncertainty with droning tones and Griffin's mandolin-like guitar and riveting vocals — especially translucent. □

Billy Porter speaks on Oscars gown and social media hate

By **LEANNE ITALIE**

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Billy Porter, speaking to Vogue before he walked the Oscars red carpet, knew what he was in for among some social media users:

"People are going to be really uncomfortable with my black ass in a ball gown, but it's not anybody's business but mine."

The remark from the Tony-winning stage performer, actor and singer was both prescient and disproven. There was mega-praise for his velvet custom tuxedo look by Christian Siriano and outrage over the notion that an African American man in a dress was a threat to black masculinity. It was just the conversation Porter had hoped to provoke, not to collect virulent hate but to help move along the idea that we all deserve respect, across racial lines and the gender divide.

"I was ready to create the conversation," Porter told The Associated Press in a phone interview Monday the day after the Oscars. "We have to teach people how to treat us, we have to teach people how to love us, we have to teach people how to respect us, and the only way we do that is to respect ourselves."

Porter, the black and gay



Billy Porter arrives at the Oscars on Sunday, Feb. 24, 2019, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

breakout star of the boundary-expanding FX series "Pose," spent awards season using fashion as political art, as he describes it. There were previous dresses, and there was help from powerhouses Tom Ford and Michael Kors in the later weeks, along with smaller designers who embrace a greater gender fluidity in their collections and were thrilled early on to dress him.

As a nominee at the Golden Globes, Porter's custom trouser look by Randi Rahm,

including a huge, hot pink-lined cape and floral embellishments, grabbed attention, but social media support and disdain after the 49-year-old took to the Oscars carpet took the debate into the stratosphere. Porter understands where established notions of black masculinity originated, and he understands how toxic they can be. He and his stylist, Sam Ratelle, also realize how rigid gender-driven taboos can be and want to help the walls come down.

"It goes all the way back to the earliest of emasculations, which is slavery, so the only way to sort of overcome that is to be the strongest and the most masculine and the most powerful and now, what has become toxic," Porter said. "And I don't think it's just black people. I think it's men in general. Every ethnicity has their version of it." Porter couldn't care less about negative comments. "The comments are not my business. What people think about what I'm doing

is not my business. I lived that already," he said. "I'm inside of my authenticity and the whole point is that you have to respect me as much as I respect you. If you don't like it, go somewhere else. You don't have to look. It's not about you. I don't understand why my putting on a dress causes this much strife in your life." Ratelle said he began working with Porter about a year ago.

"He said, 'I want to be a piece of walking art,' and we just went from there," Ratelle said. "It's been really awesome to work with a bunch of great designers. Randi Rahm was certainly completely open. Issey Miyake was fantastic for the Radio City show (Porter was a study in white). Christian Siriano, the fact that he did this custom gown in one week, was incredible after saying, 'Absolutely. There's no question we'll do this.' Michael Kors has been the most gracious human. So has Tom Ford."

"People are actually listening," he said. "I hope it opens up a dialogue of healing. I will always continue to do me. If there's anything I've learned in the 49 years that I've lived on this planet, is that being authentic is the only version of the story that anybody should be." □

Festival co-founder: Lineup for Woodstock 50 coming soon

By **MESFIN FEKADU**

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Woodstock co-founder Michael Lang says the wait is almost over regarding performers for Woodstock 50, despite media reports claiming Jay-Z, Black Keys and others will perform at the event in August.

"We are thrilled with all the excitement about Woodstock 50, but we have an obligation to our fans, artists and partners to do things the right way," Lang said in a statement to The Associated Press on Thursday. "We are in the final stages of laying the groundwork and can't wait to stage this



In this Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2015, file photo, Michael Lang speaks during a tour at the former Zena Elementary School in Woodstock, N.Y.

Associated Press

once-in-a-lifetime event. We'll be officially announcing the lineup and ticket

on-sale soon, stay tuned!" The original Woodstock concert took place in 1969.

On Thursday Variety reported that Jay-Z, Black Keys, Dead & Company, Chance the Rapper, Imagine Dragons, the Killers, Gary Clark Jr. and others will perform at Woodstock 50. The event is separate from an anniversary concert planned at the site of the original festival in 1969. In an interview Thursday with The Associated Press when asked if Imagine Dragons would perform at Woodstock 50, bandleader Dan Reynolds said: "I don't think that's been announced yet, but I can tell you that we have been in talks with them." More than 80 artists are expected to

perform at Woodstock 50, which will take place Aug. 16-18 in Watkins Glen, New York, about 115 miles (185 kilometers) northwest of the original site. Artists will perform on three main stages at Watkins Glen International racetrack in the Finger Lakes. The original concert was held on a farm in Bethel, New York that is now run as an attraction by The Bethel Woods Center for the Arts. The venue plans its own anniversary event Aug. 16-18. More than 400,000 people attended the Woodstock Music and Arts Fair, which was held Aug. 15-17, 1969. □



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